

40 years

White Night illuminates a united Melbourne



Melbourne Town Hall delivered live opera to appreciative White Night visitors on 17 February

Photo: Marg Leser

Janet Graham

Stretching from Linlithgow Avenue in the south to Carlton Gardens in the north, the sixth White Night festival was spectacular and fun, with an eye-catching event at every turn.

They Cannot Take the Sky was a sombre reminder that not everyone is free to enjoy a midnight wander through convivial crowds in a harmonious city. Projected onto NGV International's long facade were videos of asylum seekers with soundbites from their stories of hardship and survival.

Close by, oblivious, the Arts Centre spire was illuminated with changing patterns of psychedelic colour, and silhouetted figures

gyrated to disco music in front of the white light at its base.

Over the road in Queen Victoria Gardens, *Light the Way* led the explorer through installations ending at the Neon Dog Park, a drawcard for children who posed beside canine apparitions. Hovering above the Yarra were ghostly inflated whale-like creatures while, below, a lone swimmer crossed the river.

At Federation Square the calm, mild night was kind to *Liquid Sky*, which had been tested by unruly winds in the festival lead-up. Tonight, the blue airborne sculpture sparkled and danced benignly above the throngs of visitors and their insatiable cameras. At regular intervals the chiming Bells enthralled as agile bellringers flew skywards clinging precariously to the ropes.

If we didn't know before, White Night left us in no doubt that laser light shows have become an extraordinarily precise art. In Flinders Street the Forum and its neighbours hosted *The Secret Life of Buildings* and *The Future Sees You*, pinpoint-perfect rotating installations that drew large crowds onto the road.

Melbourne Town Hall excelled itself with its music-themed laser display in glorious colour and meticulous detail. Accompanying this were live performances by opera singers on the balcony, who received enthusiastic applause from an appreciative audience. Across the road we had a taste of counter-culture where, on a dark balcony above a shop, a solitary figure mimicking the singers elicited chuckles and a few raised eyebrows.

There was a huge queue for *The Secret Life*

of Books at the State Library but those who patiently waited said the pageant of books coming to life in the La Trobe Reading Room was magical.

The wide expanse of Carlton Gardens in the small hours afforded a welcome respite from the hurly-burly of the central city. In the Melbourne Museum forecourt *The Serpent Mother* breathing fire was exciting but hard to get a good view of from ground level.

The pièce de résistance was yet another laser installation. *What If...* painted the Royal Exhibition Building in various guises and giddy hues, dressing the facade in architectural detail from bottom to top to sound effects like concrete being munched. Stupendous!

NOTICEBOARD



The *North and West Melbourne News* is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers from North and West Melbourne and the inner city. It is now in its 40th year of production. Readers' contributions are welcomed. Where relevant the *News* may seek alternative opinions in the interests of balance. Contributors' opinions are their own, however, and the *News* takes no responsibility for them. We reserve the right to edit or omit articles and advertisements considered unsuitable or when space is limited.

Articles should be submitted by email to nwmnews@centre.org.au. Please use minimal formatting and do not embed graphics in documents. Photographs should be sent separately as JPEGs.

Finance

The *News* is a non-profit organisation working as a program of The Centre. Funding is by way of a limited quota of advertising, sponsorships, subscriptions and occasional donations.

News subscriptions

If you would like to receive the *North and West Melbourne News* by mail, the rate is \$20 for four copies sent anywhere in Australia or pro rata for part of the calendar year. The *News* is distributed free throughout North and West Melbourne. Further copies are available from The Centre and the North Melbourne Library.

Advertisement sizes and rates

60 mm W x 92 mm H	\$84 incl GST
124 mm W x 92 mm H	\$168 incl GST
188 mm W x 92 mm H	\$252 incl GST
252 mm W x 92 mm H	\$336 incl GST

A charge of 25 per cent may be added for advertisements that require designing. For more information phone 9329 1627 or email Advertising.NWMN@outlook.com Community announcements are published free of charge.

Volunteers

The *News* welcomes new volunteers. If you have skills in writing, drawing, photography, archiving, subediting and proofreading, computer technology or design and layout, please consider joining the team.

Publisher: Ragn Hannah

Content Coordinator: Position vacant

Advertising Coordinator: Janet Graham

Distribution Coordinator: Dan Tuturas

Section Editors:

Arts & Entertainment: Columbia Winterton
Community: Amelia Jarrett and Camella Macpherson

Education & Technology: Dan Tuturas and Ian Truong

History: Matt Hennessy

Noticeboard: Janet Graham

Politics & Environment: Catherine McLeod

Sport & Health: Andrew Dunton and Katrina Kincade-Sharkey

The Centre: Janet Graham

Travel & Food: Gen Blair

Production team: Janet Graham, Amelia Jarrett, Dan Tuturas and Jim Weatherill.

Peter Alsen provided professional assistance with layout.

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North and West Melbourne News
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051
Email: nwmnews@centre.org.au
Telephone: 9328 1126

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Spring 2018 edition:

Copy deadline 23 August, publication 21 September

Summer 2018–2019 edition:

Copy deadline 8 November, publication 7 December

www.centre.org.au

NEWS DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED!

If you enjoy receiving a copy of the *News* delivered to your home every quarter, you might like to think about joining the team of volunteers who make sure the paper finds its way into almost every letterbox in North and West Melbourne.

Please email Distribution Coordinator Dan Tuturas at nwmnews@centre.org.au if you are able to assist.

**IMPORTANT STREET EVENT NOTIFICATION
SPANISH LANGUAGE FIESTA 2018****Road Closure Notification**

Saturday 7 April 2018 11.00am – 4.00pm

The Centre is holding the third Spanish Language Fiesta in George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street, North Melbourne, on Saturday 7 April from 11.00am to 4.00pm. There will be disruptions to the following streets and locations:

- George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street will be completely closed to vehicles between 7.00am and 7.00pm on Saturday 7 April.
- No public transport will be affected by the road closures.
- Errol Street, Leveson Street, Queensberry Street and Victoria Street will not be affected by the event.

Route 57 tram: The tram will run through North Melbourne as normal and to its regular Saturday timetable.

Roadblocks will be installed at 7.30am on Saturday 7 April and will be removed at 6.00pm on the same day.

Car-parking along Errol Street, Leveson Street and Queensberry Street will be available on the day of the event, with most spaces metered between 7.30am and 12.30pm. After this time, parking in these spaces is free for the rest of the day.

Access will be reopened to traders and residents within the precinct after 7.00pm on Saturday 7 April or when safe to do so.

For further enquiries about the traffic management for this event please contact Tatiana Echeverri at The Centre on 9328 1126 or the City of Melbourne Strategic Planning and Logistics Coordinator, Mara Milosevic, on 9658 8773.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the Spanish Language Fiesta and look forward to celebrating with you.

Residents About Integrated Development at 3051 Inc (RAID @ 3051 Inc)

The Annual General Meeting of RAID @ 3051 was held on Tuesday 13 March 2018. The following committee was elected:

Chair: Peter Hogg

Secretary/Treasurer: Tess Demediuk

Committee Members: Angela Williams,

Gary Bateman and Lorna Hannan

For further information about RAID

email raid3051@gmail.com

Refer also to article on page 5 of this

edition of the *News*.

**RAID
3051**

St Mary's Fair

Saturday 5 May, 10.00am – 2.00pm

Cake stall, sausage sizzle, jams, preserves, organic home produce, face-painting, second-hand children's toys, clothes and books, jumping castle, animal farm, children's crafts, Devonshire tea and Mother's Day gifts

**St Mary's Church and Kindergarten
430 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne**

Easter Services in North and West Melbourne**St James Old Cathedral, Anglican
Corner King & Batman streets, West Melbourne (opposite Flagstaff Gardens)**

Palm Sunday 25 March 10.00am Holy Communion
Good Friday 30 March 10.00am Passion Reading
Easter Sunday 1 April 10.00am Holy Communion

St Mary Star of the Sea, Catholic**Corner Victoria & Howard streets, West Melbourne**

Saturday 24 March 6.30pm Vigil Mass
Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) 25 March 10.30am Sunday Mass; 12.00 noon Sunday Mass (in Lithuanian) — palms will be distributed at each Mass
Monday 26, Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 March 12.30pm Weekday Mass
Holy Thursday 29 March 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 30 March 10.30am Stations of the Cross; 11.15am Seven Words of Our Lord on the Cross Sermon; 12.00 noon Holy Rosary; 3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion; 7.30pm Office of Tenebrae
Holy Saturday 31 March 8.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 1 April 10.30am Mass of Easter; 12.00 noon Mass of Easter (in Lithuanian)

St Mary's, Anglican**Corner Queensberry & Howard streets, North Melbourne**

Palm Sunday 25 March 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Sung Eucharist with Procession; 8.00pm Tenebrae
Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 March 6.30pm Eucharist
Wednesday 28 March 12.30pm Eucharist; 6.30pm Eucharist
Thursday 29 March 8.00pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy
Friday 30 March 10.00am Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 31 March 9.00pm Great Paschal Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 1 April 8.00am Eucharist; 10.00am Sung Eucharist

St Michael's, Catholic**456 Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne**

Information not available at time of going to press

Saints Peter and Paul, Ukrainian Catholic**35 Canning Street, North Melbourne (corner Canning & Dryburgh streets)**

Information not available at time of going to press

Uniting Church, Mark the Evangelist**51 Curzon Street, North Melbourne**

The congregation meets in the church hall, 4 Elm Street
Palm Sunday 25 March 10.00am Readings, hymns and choir with Eucharist
Maundy Thursday 29 March 7.30pm including the Eucharist and the foot-washing ritual
Good Friday 30 March 10.00am
Saturday 31 March from 8.00pm Easter Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 1 April 10.00am including the Eucharist and a reaffirmation of baptism

A SMALL REMINDER ABOUT USED STAMPS

Don't forget to drop your used postage stamps into The Centre at 58 Errol Street. This is another way to recycle and provides much-needed funds for charities. Tear the stamps off the envelopes carefully or just put the envelopes in a bag.

PROTECT ABBOTSFORD STREET ESTATE

The Protect Abbotsford Street Estate group meets fortnightly to discuss a better way of solving the public housing crisis.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT PLAN?

- Sale of public land to private developers
- Gross overdevelopment with towers up to nine storeys and almost total site coverage on the Abbotsford Street Estate
- Increase in public housing capacity likely to be less than 10%

Please join us at our informal open meetings:

Sunday 25 March, 8 April, 22 April, 6 May — 2.30pm to 4.30pm
North Melbourne Maternal & Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford St

Contact us via email: ProtectAbbotsfordStreetEstate@gmail.com

Join 'Protect Abbotsford Street Group' on Facebook.

Look out for a public meeting after the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program releases its findings in June.

40 YEARS OF THE NEWS

NORTH MELBOURNE NEWS

A community newspaper

Free

Amelia Jarrett

In 2018 the *News* is celebrating its 40th year of production! The banner displayed above is the one used in the first issue, December 1978.

We hope to include an article from a past edition in each issue of the *News* published

this year to remind us all how things have changed, but also how history often repeats itself from one decade to the next in terms of matters dear to the community's heart.

This article from the 100th edition of the *North Melbourne News* (as it was then) describes the history of the paper, as well as some technological advances up to that time. Thankfully, things on that front have changed

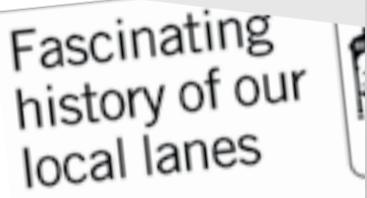
a little in the last 20 years!

However, the original ethos of the *News* is the same. Our readers are still our main contributors, whether as residents or workers at local community organisations, and we still meet regularly at The Centre on Errol Street to discuss content and community matters.

The year 1978 must have been a good one for community initiatives. As you will read

elsewhere in this section, Inner Melbourne Community Legal (formerly North Melbourne Legal Service) is also celebrating its 40th anniversary!

We continue to be a free, not-for-profit newspaper, led by and for the community. We always welcome new volunteers, so please do see page 2 on how to contribute and get involved!



Drawing by Madeleine, Year 4
St Michael's Primary School

100 editions of the News!!



Drawing by Madeleine, Year 4
St Michael's Primary School

From the very early years, the collective spirit permeated the life of the *News*. David Swifte, who was active in 1982, describes the approach to layout:

The layout sessions were true workshops; the beauty of it was that people didn't subdivide activities. They weren't territorial. All tasks are done by everyone; artistic, menial deliveries. It was in this sense, a true collective.

Could it be any different? Well yes. We do not have office bearers, we

do not vote on important policy questions ... but in other respects,

the activity of producing a community paper has become a little

more 'subdivided'.

February 1992 was a significant milestone, the *News* acquired its first computer: a Macintosh Classic. This Classic ran at under 8 MHz [the current models run at around 250 MHz] and came with a 40 MB hard disk drive. We were ecstatic. No more 'lettaset' headings and borders! This computer [with printer] was set up in the old first floor bathroom at the North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre.

The next major technological leap came in March 1994. With the acquisition of a Macintosh LC 475 and 14 inch colour monitor, the Collective started to use a desk top publishing program to produce copy. With the shift of layout from the table to the computer screen, the production activity became even more specialised.

Sharing and cooperation underpin the work of the *News*. The first editions of the paper were prepared in the Farrago Office at Melbourne University; this was 1978 and 1979. In November 1979, the *News* moved to the Environment Action Centre, then at the corner of Errol and Bendigo Streets.

Our long association with the Neighbourhood Centre commenced in January 1981, when the *News* moved to 56 Errol Street [yes, it was 56, a fire at Centre 56 in August 1983 forced the move to 58]. But the sharing went beyond the use of space. Coordinators of the North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre have had a crucial influence upon the life of the *News*.

Without their support and the financial support of the City of Melbourne, life would have been very difficult indeed. No brief reflection on the *News* would be complete without a comment upon our editorial content. We have broken most of the rules over the years. Our readers have been our central contributors, whether as residents or as workers attached to local groups. We encourage debate over matters important to the local community, but we don't write editorials.

We call ourselves a newspaper, but there is very little 'hard news' and almost no 'bad' hard news!! But this is the current state of affairs. As we celebrate 100 editions of the North Melbourne *News*, members of the Collective dream of new directions. You can be part of the *News* and shape the future. If you have a passion for the media ... allow the *News* to be the outlet for your energy and creativity!

Ewan O'Gilly



Maurice Glad



Linda, Celeste & Linda's son

North Melbourne News, March 1998 - Page 5

1000 of these crane to a sister school in Japan.

Two of the students, Madeleine and Melissa, have made some cranes to display at The Centre. They encourage you to make

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COMMUNITY

VERY IMPRESSIVE

Hello from disgustingly hot Melbourne.

It's 3.24am. Everything is wrong and useless. It's far too hot for sleeping, 31 degrees in here. The world's a crazy stupid place of hideous weather. It's not global warming, it's global instability. It can make my thought process extremely random.

My latest proposal: take the good bits of Melbourne — couldn't possibly name them, some people would certainly think I'd missed some good bits — and move them to just off Macquarie Island. With a pedestrian bridge in between, as it's a bird sanctuary.

Should be much cooler down there. Fantastic tourism opportunities. And I do like bird watching.

There's months more of this heat. I'm not liking it in the slightest.

Yarndi and I have various places we go in which to avoid the heat, but one of the favourites is the excellent Capture Hair Design on Queensberry Street. Yarndi loves Sam greatly as she's babysat him. Wants to visit every time we go past, even on Sundays and Mondays when they're not open. Plus, they do great things to my hair and have fabulous coffee.

Entirely random in context, but I just can't get it out of my head: 14-year-old girls like Dolly shouldn't be committing suicide.

Constantly worrying about my car, Nancy. Our landlords are claiming that because she's not registered or running I shouldn't have the car park I've had for 14 years. They're not offering any monetary advantage in giving up the car space, which is stupid. It costs proper money to park a car on the street in our 'most livable' North Melbourne.

They say she has to go elsewhere. Where will she go? Anyone reading this got a spare space for a sexy 1955 Hillman Minx to hang out? Supposedly I should sell her again, but I won't get what she owes me.

I think she's pretty. Would love to get her running. But apparently she's yet another example of my being a useless wastrel idiot with no idea of what I'm doing.

But I do know that 14-year-old girls shouldn't be committing suicide.

Dolly's parents are being really nice and saying the idiots who were bullying her online should come to her funeral.

I'm not a fan of physical violence, never been a favourite thing of mine, but today I feel kicking a few useless teenagers in the head could be a worthwhile pursuit.

Dolly. They let off balloons at her funeral.

Apologies to any nice people previously offended by our irritating stance on balloons, water and air ones, being released into the environment.

Haven't liked them for quite some time now, although useful things they can be. But what broke the camel's back was seeing a magnifi-



cent green sea turtle, maybe 25 years old, on a certain Bondi veterinary program.

By the growths attached to her, she had been stuck on the surface for an estimated four to five months. Unable to feed. Unable to dive. Unable to swim properly. Getting disastrously sunburnt and dehydrated, close to death when found by commercial fishermen and transported to vets.

Upon surgical investigation, it was discovered she had the neck of a latex balloon caught between her neck and her shell.

On removal of this nasty bit of human detritus, multiple shells and assorted growths upon her, she then began to recover. After many months of veterinary attention, she was released back to the sea.

A tiny bit of latex. A magnificent sea turtle. Which is more important/fascinating and needed on this Spacecraft Earth, Douglas Adams?

Not latex, and certainly not the useless humans who insist upon dropping their rubbish everywhere. This includes you useless smokers who drop your crap all over this beautiful city.

My opinions may not be worth much, but they're the ones I'm sticking with.

To finish, I'd like to say Joy! Joy! Joy! of Joys! At last, after many years, North Melbourne has a public toilet again.

According to an article in the previous edition of the *News*, the 1938 underground toilets at the corner of Hawke and King streets were closed in 1998 and concrete slabs were laid over the entrances. They are unlikely to open again, so all they are now is their excellent Art Deco above-ground architecture.

But more on the new toilet. It's fantastic to have it finally open. The corner of Errol and Queensberry streets is its location, next to the urinal. Also, it is great to see that the council has used a pseudo-historic design rather than the chrome or white ones that have been foisted upon other suburbs.



Photo: Very Impressive

Considering Australia Day

Cindy Huang

On 26 January 1788, 11 ships occupied by British convicts arrived at Sydney Cove, where Captain Arthur Phillip raised the flag of Great Britain. Two hundred and thirty years later, the Traditional Owners of the land continue to oppose the current date of Australia Day.

The March of Freedom, Justice and Hope, which took place in 1988, gathered more than 40,000 people, including both Indigenous and non-Indigenous supporters, to chant for land rights through the streets of Sydney. The pressure on the nation to resolve conflicts around the relationship between Indigenous Australians and European arrivals has never ceased.

An Australia Institute survey released in January 2018 showed that only 37 per cent of people recognised that the celebration of Australia Day on 26 January might be offensive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Forty-nine per cent acknowledged that Australia Day should not be celebrated on a day that offends certain populations.

These statistics are not new and should not surprise us. No one denies that at least 40,000 years before the arrival of the First Fleet, native populations already inhabited Australia. Yet few non-Indigenous people remember our history and realise that they are living on the motherlands that used to belong to the First People.

According to a 2018 poll carried out by Review Partners Pty Ltd in association with Research Now SSI, only 49 per cent of Australians surveyed knew that 26 January was the dark date when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples began to experience dispossession and violence, imposed by British colonisation. The gap between Indigenous Australians and the rest of the population is yet to be closed.

Australia Day is a symbol of unity that should celebrate all cultures and heritages. It is indeed an important date for the entire nation, yet behind the debate lie more pressing issues about inequality for Indigenous Australians.

Despite some recent improvements, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics the average life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in 2010–2012 was 10 years less than that of non-Indigenous Australians. Furthermore, the 2015 Closing the Gap Report found that the gap had widened for cancer mortality and that there had been no

improvement for diabetes, suicide or transport accidents in recent years.

The NWMPR Kulin Balit PCP Consortium Project details that incidents of mental health and incarceration continue to be an area of particular concern for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders. A culture that is welcoming and inclusive of all cultures is yet to come.

Yet there are solutions to this, and acknowledging the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners of the land in which we live and work, and respecting their Elders past and present, are two.

The North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) provides health-care services and outreach support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the region. NWMPHN is committed to building meaningful and long-lasting relationships. By understanding the Indigenous community's needs in terms of lifestyles and culture, the network seeks to welcome and support them.

With the increasing acknowledgment that Australia's history goes back well beyond 26 January 1788, and the implementation of programs such as those run by NWMPHN, we look forward to seeing the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the rest of the Australian population closed in the very near future.

Sources:

Museums Victoria Collection: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/2835>
Australia Institute poll: www.tai.org.au/content/australians-laid-back-about-australia-day-poll

Review Partners Pty Ltd in association with Research Now SSI Australia Day poll: www.reviewpartners.com.au/australia-day-report
Australian Bureau of Statistics findings via the Australian Human Rights Commission: www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples

Closing the Gap: Prime Minister's Report 2015: www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/Closing_the_Gap_2015_Report.pdf

NWMPR Kulin Balit PCP Consortium Project: www.inwpcp.org.au/toolkit-main-page/aboriginal-health-in-melbournes-north-west-research/

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network: www.nwmphn.org.au/priority-area-topic/aboriginal-health/

In memoriam

The *News* is sad to report the passing of several prominent local people late last year.

George Dixon (1924–2017) was an actor, theatre producer and respected teacher. He lived with his wife, Lola Russell, in the oldest shop in the CBD, on the corner of King and La Trobe streets. Together they ran the front room as a teashop for many years.

Denys Harraway (1932–2017). A metallurgical engineer by profession and a lover of the arts and local history, Denys was a staunch defender of the environment and sustainable development. He was a member of the Hotham History Project and an obituary appears in the History section of this edition of the *News*.

Graeme Harper (1943–2017) was a keen photographer and amateur artist with a

talent for painting ships and marinescapes in an almost Turner-esque style. He was a lecturer in education at Melbourne University's Hawthorn campus. Despite living with Parkinson's disease for many years, Graeme maintained his positive outlook on life and sense of humour to the end.

Viva Sali (Jillian Gibb) (1945–2017). Viva was a well-known artist and photographer whose works were exhibited at the National Gallery of Victoria and other galleries. A lover of nature and animals, her productive and colourful front garden was a local landmark. There was always a faithful dog in her life and Viva immortalised some of them in her paintings.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of George, Denys, Graeme and Viva.

Residents About Integrated Development

Marg Leser

Residents matter!

RAID continues to focus on working with residents, other community groups and local government and to advocate for physical planning and development that is matched by social infrastructure that addresses the needs of current and future residents of all ages.

RAID is a non-partisan incorporated local organisation that is committed to open and transparent governance.

Woolworths site

RAID was launched in 2011 in response to an overdevelopment by Woolworths of the triangular site bordered by Canning Street, Macaulay Road and Vaughan Terrace in North Melbourne. Despite community opposition, VCAT approved apartment towers of 16 and 10 storeys, a large supermarket and a bottle shop with extended retail hours.

RAID members met with a City of Melbourne (CoM) representative and the team from Hickory (the site developer) in November 2017 and raised a number of issues regarding lack of communication with the community and a range of contractor issues — especially truck movements in the early morning.

Hickory acknowledged the issues and undertook to letterbox the immediate neighbours and instruct its contractors not to idle their vehicles and to use designated driving routes. These instructions have frequently been breached. Neither Hickory nor CoM has demonstrated consistent monitoring of contractor issues or effective communication with residents.

The permitted hours for construction site work within the City of Melbourne are Monday to Friday 7.00am to 7.00pm and Saturday 8.00am to 3.00pm. Any work outside these hours requires an out-of-hours permit. Workers are allowed on site before these times but must not undertake any building work. Any infringements can be reported to the CoM on 9658 9658.

Hickory advises anyone needing to make urgent contact to phone 0417 074 100. Residents who wish to be kept informed of construction issues or wish to communicate any concerns regarding construction should email ardengardens@hickory.com.au.

Noise from trucks queuing before 7.00am and from cranes starting up in the early morning continues to disturb residents. Construction works restrict access to footpaths and streets. The CoM's apparent inability to monitor construction activity and the lack of effective community consultation remain major issues for RAID.

Amendment C190 (Part 2) panel hearing

RAID (represented by committee member Gary Bateman) made a submission to the panel hearing on 2 February 2018 in support of Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C190 (Part 2): Arden Macaulay.

The amendment concerns the built-form control proposed by the council for the Shiel Street residential interface, as set out in DDO63 for Area 8. It requires that development above a three-storey street wall should be set back at least 2 metres for every 1 metre of height at the interface.

The owner of 3–15 Shiel Street (the former Woods Motors site) pursued the panel-recommended 'residential interface' control that all development be set back 10 metres above a three-storey street-wall height and be 'visually recessive'. The council maintains that this control would in fact allow "a secondary highly visible wall of built form up to 12 storeys in height" to be constructed within 10 metres of the Shiel Street interface (see Figure 1).

RAID considers that CoM's Amendment C190 (Part 2) would give greater certainty that a visually recessive upper level is achieved in this low-rise, stable, 19th-century streetscape.

Resident input into policy

Residents' voices matter and RAID's experience is that local residents do make a significant contribution to good policy development and implementation affecting 3051. For several years RAID has lobbied for the expansion of Gardiner Reserve, as it is currently the only accessible public playground in this area.

We welcome the November 2017 decision by CoM to approve an expansion of Gardiner Reserve (opposite the North Melbourne pool). The upgrade will result in a 30 per cent increase in parkland, refurbishment and changes to the play equipment, and changes to traffic flow and parking.

Social Housing Renewal Standing Advisory Committee

RAID, along with many community members and organisations, presented to the Victorian Government Social Housing Renewal Standing Advisory Committee on the proposed Abbotsford Street public housing estate renewal.

The main points raised in RAID's presentation were: the importance of meaningful community consultation; public land should remain in public hands; support for increased, high-quality public housing in the inner city; advocacy for additional schools in North Melbourne; recognition that inner Melbourne needs a different solution to urban renewal due to its uniqueness; medium- to

large-scale housing developments are abundant in the immediate vicinity of the site, which scales up the impact on service infrastructure (including schools, kindergartens, child care and health), recreation facilities, open space, transport, traffic and parking; and public and private open space is lacking in North Melbourne.

Please refer to the following website for updates on the Abbotsford Street renewal: www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/housing-strategy/social-housing-renewal-program/abbotsford-street,-north-melbourne

Development of Arden and Macaulay precincts

The Arden Urban Renewal Precinct will have a massive impact on 3051. It involves a 56-hectare base for 34,000 jobs and 15,000 residents and will include the new Arden (future North Melbourne) Metro station. More information is available at ardenmacaulay.vic.gov.au.

RAID earlier made a submission to the Victorian Planning Authority in regard to the Arden precinct, which adjoins the Macaulay precinct. We are concerned about the lack of consultation on the strategic planning and development of Macaulay.

The Melrose Street precinct needs revitalisation. Community engagement is especially important in this area because of the multiple apartment towers in Shiel Street, Haines Street and Macaulay Road and especially the Woolworths development of over 300 apartments, all of which will increase the demand for education, recreation and other community services in this poorly serviced area.

RAID 3051

Councillor Nicholas Reece, chair of the CoM Planning Committee, is the guest speaker at RAID's AGM on 13 March. He has been asked to outline City of Melbourne strategic thinking on physical planning and implications for community infrastructure.

Support RAID!

RAID's resources are stretched and we really do need more residents to share their skills. We need help from the community — especially with the website, social media, physical and related community infrastructure planning and transport issues. Please contact us if you are able to assist.

Connect to RAID@3051

For further information about RAID, or to become a member and receive our e-newsletter, email raids3051@gmail.com, access the RAID website at www.3051-integrated.com or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/3051-RAID-126672457437926.



10M SETBACK REQUIREMENT ABOVE 3 STOREY STREETWALL WITH 30% BONUS

Figure 1. Context Model Analysis by Melbourne City Council: section perspective (Shiel Street)

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North and West Melbourne Association

After a couple of months' break over the Christmas holiday the North and West Melbourne Association (NWMA) held its first ordinary general meeting of the year on 20 February.

Adam Mills and Melanie Del Monaco, from the City of Melbourne's (CoM) Urban Strategy Branch, provided an update on the West Melbourne Structure Plan (WMSP) and some information on the council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

West Melbourne Structure Plan update

The speakers reminded us that work on the WMSP had begun three years before. After much behind-the-scenes work, in July–August 2017 CoM had presented a draft WMSP for consultation, which had then gone back for the planners to incorporate the community's feedback.

The final WMSP was released in early February 2018 and a few days later, at the CoM Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 6 February, councillors endorsed it unanimously. Three-quarters of respondents had been supportive of the draft plan — a result described by the council as an "extraordinary extent of support".

There had, however, been concerns about the definition of floor area ratios (FARs) and the degree to which they were mandatory or discretionary, building height limits and non-residential uses, although there was support for retaining mixed use. The draft plan had undergone some changes, some in response to suggestions from the Victorian Government Architect. These changes include:

- The FARs now exclude basements, in an effort to reduce on-site parking.
 - Preferred maximum heights have been increased from four to six storeys fronting Adderley Street between Hawke and Dudley streets.
 - The vision statements for the five 'places' identified in West Melbourne have been strengthened.
 - There will be additional steps taken to mitigate the impact of the West Gate Tunnel.
 - Updated parking controls will improve access to on-street parking for local residents.
- There was lively discussion at the NWMA

meeting about the capacity for 5500-plus new dwellings in West Melbourne, housing around 11,000 residents; the capacity for about 4500 new jobs; the effect of increased traffic volumes from the West Gate Tunnel toll road, especially on the 'village high street' vision for Spencer Street with its mooted tram route extension; the safety of cyclists and pedestrians; the expansion of public open space; and an increase in tree canopy from 20 per cent to 40 per cent.

The next step for the WMSP is the drafting of a planning amendment, allowing further opportunities for community input before it returns to CoM for authorisation and then delivery to the Minister for Planning for approval. This process will take some 18 months.

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030

The City of Melbourne is currently developing a 12-year action plan. At the NWMA meeting members reported an obvious lack of knowledge about the functions of the two types of

waste bin. They said neighbours were putting garbage in recycling bins (with yellow lids) and recyclable matter (paper, cans and bottles) in the general rubbish bins (green lids).

One person had seen garbage collectors emptying general rubbish and recyclable materials into the same truck.

A further problem was the amount of hard rubbish and personal belongings being dumped randomly in the street, thought to be the result of tenant turnover. Councils were now facing another obstacle with China's announcement that it would no longer accept shipments of Australian waste for treatment.

There were calls for garden-waste bins to be issued to help residents deal with prunings and weed growth, and for the council to devise a strategy to turn plastic waste into useful products such as street furniture. A return to the system of can levies and deposits on bottles was also favoured.

North West Patch community garden

The North West Patch subcommittee has received its grant awarded under the Stronger Communities Program and spent the funds plus an additional few hundred dollars on 10 top-quality wicking boxes from ModBOX.

These will eventually be assembled at the North Melbourne Meat Market, which is very keen to have the garden in its grounds. The boxes will be mounted on wheel brackets engineered to allow them to be moved around the courtyard when the Meat Market has outdoor events.

The last step to be completed before soil is introduced and planting begins involves a formal process through the City of Melbourne, which runs the Meat Market. The CoM

community engagement officers fully support the community garden, and they and the Patch team are confident the project will receive final approval by July this year.

Lord Mayor by-election

The Victorian Electoral Commission has announced that a by-election for the vacant position of Lord Mayor will be held in May. It will be conducted entirely by postal voting, with ballot packs mailed to voters between Monday 23 April and Thursday 26 April.

Voting is compulsory for all voters listed on the Melbourne City Council voters roll at 4.00pm on 16 March 2018. When you receive your ballot pack you must complete your ballot paper and return it as soon as possible using the reply-paid envelope. Alternatively, you may hand-deliver your completed ballot material to the election office by 6.00pm on Friday 11 May.

It must be *posted* — or in the hands of the returning officer — by 6.00pm Friday 11 May, or your vote will not be counted and you may incur a fine.

We urge all residents to take this opportunity to have a say on the composition of our city council.

NWMA meetings and contacts

The next Association meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 17 April, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start, in the Dewey Common, Bastow Institute, 603–615 Queensberry Street (enter off Union Street).

Membership subscriptions are now due and you can renew by going to our website at www.nwma.org.au/join/ where you will find instructions as well as information about paying by direct debit.



The Meat Market courtyard, which will host the North West Patch community garden

Photo: Bridget Macwhirter

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40 years for Inner Melbourne Community Legal

Dan Stubbs

Inner Melbourne Community Legal, a long-standing non-profit organisation offering free legal services to vulnerable people in North and West Melbourne, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Formerly North Melbourne Legal Service, Inner Melbourne Community Legal was established in 1978 by an inspirational group of lawyers passionate about social justice. The organisation is still providing community legal support for the vulnerable to this day.

Inner Melbourne Community Legal CEO Daniel Stubbs said the organisation wanted to uncover its history, and is calling on all former staff, interns and volunteers to make contact with the organisation again to share their stories.

"It's really great to keep meeting people who have gone on and done really interesting and impressive things, who volunteered here 20 or 30 years ago," Mr Stubbs said.

"We're asking all former staff and volunteers — from founding members and board positions to law interns — to make contact with us via our website and connect with us to help celebrate our 40th year."

Mr Stubbs said the legal centre played an important role in the local community.

"Community lawyers are here to support those who are the most vulnerable in Melbourne, and often migrants, the homeless and those experiencing mental illness are most at risk," he added.

"It is our job to stand up for those who are vulnerable in the Melbourne community, and those who aren't able to fight for themselves or who find the legal system daunting."

Inner Melbourne Community Legal principal lawyer Melanie Dye recently helped a client living with mental illness and health issues, Huong, to be freed of a large debt, after accumulating parking fines.

"We recently helped Huong, a migrant client at risk of homelessness. After living and working in Australia since the 1980s, he amassed \$15,000 in parking fines while battling mental health issues," Ms Dye said.

"Huong had lost his job due to a heart condition and his marriage had broken down. Most of the fines had been incurred during this period of time, so we were confident that something out of the ordinary was happening.

"We assured him we would help and referred him to a psychologist for professional help. Huong was then diagnosed with a major depressive illness that had probably affected him at the time he received all the fines.

"The magistrate in this case ruled Huong's fines were a result of his mental ill-health and homelessness, and he shouldn't be penalised for that. Huong's fines and associated debt were waived," she said.

CEO Dan Stubbs said this case showed that the work of legal centres like Inner Melbourne Community Legal was as relevant as ever in 2018.

"The fight for social justice helps ensure everyone, no matter what their race, religion, gender or disability, has an opportunity to



The dedicated lawyers at Inner Melbourne Community Legal

Photo: IMCL

enjoy a good and fair quality of life. Social justice is why we exist," Mr Stubbs said.

In 2018, Inner Melbourne Community Legal is celebrating 40 years of fighting for social justice and helping those most vulnerable in

North and West Melbourne.

Former staff members, volunteers and clients are asked to make contact to join in the 40th anniversary celebrations. Visit www.imcl.org.au/support-us/40-stories/ for more details.

POLITICS & ENVIRONMENT

Melbourne Metro works raise heritage concerns

Conall Batch

As part of ongoing preparations for the Arden station development, the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) has relocated a historic railway weighbridge from its original home in North Melbourne to the Daylesford Spa Country Railway.

The weighbridge, in operation between 1927 and the late 1980s, was one of many used throughout Victoria to determine rail freight charges. It will be fully restored to its original working condition for an upcoming exhibition in an open-air museum at the Daylesford site.

North and West Melbourne community members, however, have expressed concern over the move.

The original railway plays a role of historical importance in the community, and many local residents fear a loss of heritage as a result of the new Metro Tunnel. Some feel that the weighbridge removal is indicative of a wider lack of consultation during the development process.

Melbourne Metro relocated the Victorian Railways weighbridge in conjunction with the Early Works contractor, John Holland KBR. The MMRA contacted several railway societies in 2017 to gauge interest in hosting the weighbridge, and found the Daylesford Spa Country Railway to be the most enthusiastic.

Melbourne Metro claims to have taken significant steps during construction to recognise, preserve and restore monuments and artefacts with heritage value.

Stephen Shaddock, MMRA project director for early works, said of the relocation: "North Melbourne was the home of Victorian industry and the Metro Tunnel Project is preserving these important values by relocating a historic weighbridge to a new home."

Kevin Chamberlin, chair of the North and

West Melbourne Association (NWMA), welcomed the restoration of the weighbridge but aired concerns over the MMRA's approach to preserving local heritage.

"It's fantastic it's being restored," he said. "But it's a pity it's not in North or West Melbourne in the community, where it served a very important function in its day."

Chamberlin claimed there had been no consultation with the local community over the fate of the weighbridge, and sees this as symbolic of the MMRA's overall approach towards heritage preservation and community consultation.

He said there was no clear plan for the maintenance and integration of historic features into the new development. "It's disappointing that we don't know of any interpretation being placed in this site on the story of the very important role that Victorian Railways played in the life of North and West Melbourne," he said.

"A lot of locals went to work there and got apprenticeships and training. It gave them a job, income, stability, social development, intellectual development. They developed a trade or a degree. To think that that's all been wiped is unfortunate."

Despite these reservations, Chamberlin expressed a positive outlook towards infrastructure development.

"The North and West Melbourne community are well-known strong supporters of public transport and would welcome any significant infrastructure upgrades and capital expenditure," he explained. He did, however, add the qualification that "there should be some interpretation telling future communities about the importance of this site to the North and West Melbourne community".

When asked about the impact of ongoing preparation for major works in the area, Chamberlin stated that, although all disruptions

were advertised well in advance, there was a disappointing lack of community consultation by the MMRA and Melbourne City Council. While there is a consultative group on the Metro development, within which the NWMA is represented, Chamberlin described such community consultation as indirect and "very much on the margins".

Though forums and avenues have been established for consultation with residents, "we've got to see whether they're prepared to listen", he said. Locals are particularly concerned by the depth of tunnelling below residences in some areas, a worry they feel has not been addressed by the MMRA.

As of February 2018, preparatory works

for major construction at Arden — soon to be renamed North Melbourne Station — were almost complete. The demolition of industrial structures on the site had been completed earlier in the month, and the set-up for the tunnel boring machine launch shaft, used to dig the Metro Rail Tunnel, was due to begin in mid-February.

More information on the Arden station development can be found at www.metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/stations/north-melbourne. Information on the North and West Melbourne Association can be found at www.nwma.org.au/.

Sources: Joel Dwyer; Melbourne Metro Rail Authority; Kevin Chamberlin, North and West Melbourne Association.



North Melbourne's historic weighbridge will be preserved

Photo: Joel Dwyer

Council cans plans for road acquisition

Mitchell Post

In October last year, homes in the City Gardens residential complex in North Melbourne were issued a notice from Melbourne City Council stating that the western end of Plane Tree Way — a private roadway under City Gardens ownership — would be compulsorily acquired.

Many of the residents were vocal in their opposition to the proposed acquisition, claiming the council's plans lacked transparency and did not serve the best interests of the community.

The council's planned procurement of Plane Tree Way was premised on an apparent need to improve access and parking for the soon-to-be-redeveloped Lady Huntingfield Children's Centre on Haines Street, which runs parallel to Plane Tree Way. The City of Melbourne is currently revamping the Lady Huntingfield, due to North Melbourne's increasing population and also the need to provide more children's services for disadvantaged and vulnerable families in the area.

Although the attainment of Plane Tree Way by the council would probably not cause any significant changes to current traffic conditions in the street — the street currently being publicly accessible and used by patrons and workers at the Lady Huntingfield on a daily basis — many City Gardens residents felt that to relinquish their full ownership of the street could jeopardise the serenity and the strong sense of community in the complex.

To those who live there, City Gardens is



Plane Tree Way in City Gardens

Photo: Alison Coulson

a quiet, leafy oasis set within an otherwise busy urban environment — a retreat from the constant hustle and bustle of inner-city life. Many of its residents were therefore concerned that losing ownership of their primary thoroughfare, which nestles in the shadows of lush, 100-year-old plane trees protected under

National Trust provisions, could potentially undermine their autonomy over the communal green spaces that border it.

The communal green spaces of City Gardens are integral to its sleepy and serene atmosphere and aesthetic. Of particular importance is the complex's community garden, known as

'The Project', which boasts over 140 members and was a finalist in last year's Melbourne Awards for its contribution to environmental sustainability.

Home to herb gardens, veggie patches, beehives and worm farms, The Project acts as a meeting place for many City Gardens locals. Project spokesperson and long-term resident Trevor Smith spoke ardently about the importance of The Project for community engagement and cohesion, warning that to infringe upon such an important site could diminish the social and communal life so many of the residents hold dear.

In light of consultations with the community and the pressure raised by residents, Melbourne City Council decided to abandon its attempts to acquire Plane Tree Way. According to its most recent statement, "any future alternative [rezoning] proposals would be subject to community consultation".

The growing population density of Melbourne's inner northern and western suburbs does necessitate the improvement and re-scaling of public services and infrastructure, as well as the redevelopment of many key local sites. However, our council's reconsideration of the rezoning of Plane Tree Way demonstrates that these processes don't always have to be at odds with community values and local interests.

Moreover, it shows that when community groups are allowed to participate in the development of their local environments, both the needs of the city and local interests can be met with pragmatic and accommodating resolution.

West Gate Tunnel — wrong way, go back!

Ellen Sandell, State Member for Melbourne

In North and West Melbourne, we're lucky to have a beautiful local community so close to the city. It's just a short walk to Errol Street, or a quick tram to the Queen Vic Market.

But if the State Government has its way, soon our streets will become even more flooded with noisy and polluting cars.

Late last year, the Labor Government signed off on the West Gate Tunnel, a toll road from the western suburbs into the city. The toll road will dump thousands more cars onto local streets in North and West Melbourne.

It will push 3000 extra cars onto Victoria Street, 2500 onto Arden Street, 3500 onto Dryburgh Street and 5000 more cars onto Hawke Street — per day.

Off-ramps will also delay, and potentially rule out, the development of the E-Gate site just west of North Melbourne Station, where there were plans to create homes for 10,000 new residents and connect West Melbourne with Docklands in a sustainable, livable community.

Dumping thousands more cars into the inner north-west will also pave the way for the East West Link to be revived. This is a project that threatens our parklands and will further increase congestion.

No other smart, modern city is building huge new toll roads and driving traffic into their CBD. So why is Melbourne?

Our community has already fought against the East West Link and defeated it once. But Labor seems to have forgotten our community's disdain for destructive toll roads.

Labor's own modelling shows the toll road will improve the commute from the outer west to the city by only eight minutes. They have kept other critical traffic modelling secret.

The West Gate Tunnel was not a project

proposed by the public, nor did it come from expert traffic analysis about what's needed for our city's transport. Transurban, a private company, submitted an unsolicited proposal for the West Gate toll road for one reason: profits. So, while we stand to lose out, this big business will make billions.

And now Labor have started digging before the project can face the public scrutiny of an election, and before Parliament has given its approval.

Have they forgotten the massive community uproar when the Liberals attempted the same thing with the East West Link?

Working with the City of Melbourne and the community, we've been able to secure improved bike paths and better lighting for footpaths. Soon, we'll have two new train stops to link the inner north-west to the rest of Melbourne as part of the Melbourne Metro, which

is a good project by this Labor Government.

Yet the Labor Government is putting these good transport credentials at risk by pushing forward with a toll road that will just create more traffic and dump thousands of cars onto local roads and the CBD.

For the sake of our city, it must be stopped.

To join the campaign to stop the West Gate toll road, go to www.thetollroadwontwork.org.au or contact my office at office@ellensandell.com or 9328 4637.



Photo: Office of Ellen Sandell MP

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Sunflowers and the city

Catherine McLeod

Against a backdrop of red brick and post-industrial grey, disused factory buildings and the towering concrete pillars that bolster the cars on the freeway above, two small crops of sunflowers offer a glimpse of green.

They spring from a pair of disused shopping trolleys at Macaulay Station, part of the latest installation by Melbourne artist Ben Morrieson in his *Fieldwork* series.

The trolleys, which were placed in groups of four or five at every station along the Upfield line, form *Fieldwork II, The Colonies*. Closer inspection reveals a plaque tied to each trolley, which invites passers-by to relocate them. According to Ben, about 40 of the trolleys have been adopted and moved by people who live or commute along the train line, some trolleys even joining established community gardens.

Ben had to prepare 70 trolleys for the project. "I needed to take a production line approach," he explained. "I designed an insert for the trolley that would contain 60 kilos of soil and also drain the water slowly."

The installation allows urban dwellers to

experience a blend of art and horticultural practice, and Ben hopes that "people will respond positively and engage with the work by watering and harvesting the seeds at the end".

This is not the first time that the Upfield line has hosted Ben's black-and-yellow blooms. His inaugural piece in the series took place in a vacant lot near Macaulay Station in 2014. On this empty block Ben planted an entire field of sunflowers that were cared for by a collaborative of local schools, community groups and businesses.

It made sense for the artist to expand his second installation along the railway line. "It was a natural fit to extend the idea into that corridor," he said. Ben also used some of the 10 kilos of seeds harvested from the original *Fieldwork* to propagate this latest project.

The *Fieldwork* series was inspired by the artist's experience of urban food gardens in Havana, Cuba. In 2018, the Centre for Art, Society and Transformation at RMIT University — Ben's alma mater — is running an exchange project between artists in the two cities, centred on the Hershey line in Havana and the Upfield track in Melbourne.

Though the flowers will have wilted by the time this goes to print, Ben has more planned



Trolleys awaiting placement

Photo: Ben Morrieson

for later this year. Those interested will have to travel a little further afield than North Melbourne, however, as his next project — also

featuring trolleys — will be part of the Biennale of Australian Art in Ballarat from September to November.

Legal advice for public housing tenants

Dan Stubbs

Inner Melbourne Community Legal continues its support for the residents of the Abbotsford Street Public Housing Estate, who will be relocated this year due to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

As part of a suite of responses, Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) recently conducted a drop-in legal advice clinic for residents impacted by the State Government's plans for the ageing estate in North Melbourne and is continuing to work closely with the Department of Housing to ensure the residents' rights are protected and that they are treated fairly.

The drop-in clinic gave residents an opportunity to get free and confidential legal advice about their individual situation.

A common theme expressed by the residents was a sense of uncertainty around the relocation process and the future of their tenancies. Many residents felt in the dark over how long they will be temporarily relocated for, or what type of alternative permanent housing they will be moved to and when.

Such uncertainty surrounding the relocation of residents and the redevelopment plans has

caused stress for a number of residents, impacting the wellbeing of already vulnerable members of our community.

Following on from the residents' feedback, IMCL lawyer Molly Williams has been advocating on the residents' behalf to the Department of Housing to clarify the meaning and terms of the relocation agreements to better protect their interests.

"We have already had some success with the Department of Housing in ensuring that the residents we have seen have been able to resign new agreements protecting their right to return to the estates after the redevelopment," she says.

As the area's local community legal service, IMCL is concerned that the proposed redevelopment could result in considerable disruptions for existing tenants, eroding community ties and access to social services that create stability for already vulnerable people.

Of key concern to IMCL — in addition to the instability for these vulnerable tenants — is that a shift from public housing to community housing could mean many tenants may move back to having a new, less publicly accountable landlord and potentially fewer tenancy rights.

"It's important that we inform tenants about the implications of these changes so that they

can make informed decisions," Ms Williams says.

The drop-in advice clinic followed a community meeting held at the North Melbourne Library in December enabling residents and community members to voice their concerns and pose questions about the redevelopment. IMCL presented at the meeting, informing residents of their key legal rights.

"I'm so sad," a resident told the group at the meeting. "I know everyone here. Everyone knows me." At 67, she risks losing her community and the place she calls home. "I treat this house like it is my own. I water the flowers on my windowsill. I love the trees, I love the grass. It is beautiful."

Ms Williams would like to see the planning process take greater consideration of the needs of existing and future public housing residents.

"Being relocated to high-rise, high-density buildings is of particular concern for residents with a disability or chronic illness," she says. "Whilst there has been a commitment to an increase in public housing properties, there is a lack of certainty as to whether the new houses will accommodate existing families who require multiple bedrooms."

A broader concern is whether the proposed 10 per cent increase in public housing stock on

the estate is sufficient for the area's housing needs. Ms Williams says it is not.

"We know that in our area there are scores of people on the housing waiting list, many on the priority list. We assist a number of homeless people, many of whom have been on the waiting list for many years," she explains.

IMCL is working alongside a number of community legal centres based in other areas with affected sites to ensure the right balance is struck between public and private interests so that the Victorian community is getting sufficient return from the selling-off of valuable public land.

"Ideally, we'd like the majority of the rebuilt estate to remain public housing," says Ms Williams.

IMCL encourages any residents of the estate who need advice to get in touch with IMCL. For more information about residents' rights, visit www.imcl.org.au to view a legal factsheet.

IMCL is a not-for-profit community legal centre that provides legal assistance to people experiencing disadvantage in the City of Melbourne area, including the CBD, Docklands, West Melbourne, North Melbourne, Carlton and Parkville. IMCL has been assisting inner-northern suburbs for 40 years. Dan Stubbs is the CEO of IMCL.



Lawyer Molly Williams (left) with law student volunteers Corinna and Chris at the pop-up legal clinic at Cohealth

Photo: Inner Melbourne Community Legal



ERROL ST MEDICAL CENTRE

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www.centre.org.au
admin@centre.org.au
Office Hours:
 Monday 10.00am to 6.00pm
 Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm
Classes follow school term dates unless otherwise stated



The Centre
 58 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
 Tel: (03) 9328 1126

North Melbourne Library
 66 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
 Tel: (03) 9658 9700

The Meat Market
 5 Blackwood Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
 Tel: (03) 9329 9966

Kensington Town Hall
 30-34 Bellair Street, Kensington VIC 3031



Docklands Hub
 80 Harbour Esplanade, Docklands VIC 3008
 (near the corner of Bourke Street — look for the giant rabbit!)



ART AND CRAFT

Art Therapy
 Time: Tuesday 1pm – 3pm
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Photoshop and Your Photography
 Time: Tuesday 10am – 12 noon
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Centre Adventures (Day Field Trips)
 Time: Fourth Tuesday monthly
 9am – 5pm
 Cost: \$41 / \$31 concession* #
 Meet at: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in Morning Teas

Cost: \$4 per session
 Time: First Tuesday monthly
 10am – 12 noon
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Errol's Angels Community Choir and Beginners Singing

Time: Thursday 7pm – 9pm
 Membership: \$173 / \$106 concession* per term
 Venue: Maternal & Child Health Centre, 505 Abbotsford St, North Melbourne

Spanish Language

Time: Tuesday 6.30pm – 8pm (five-week program)
 Cost: \$173 / \$106 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Volunteer and Internship Program

We have a wide range of structured learning opportunities for everyone, for example:

- Spring Fling Festival, third Sunday in October annually
- Spanish Language Fiesta, second Saturday in April
- Writing and editing *NWM News*
- News distribution
- Tutoring or teacher's aide
- Office and business administration
- Venue and facilities management
- Community development work
- Business promotion and development
- Other events

Time: Must enter into a regular commitment
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Asthma Management or Anaphylaxis Management or First Aid or Food Handling

Time: 9am – 4pm quarterly (two sessions with pre-reading)
 Cost: \$155, \$108 Food Handling
 Dates: Once each term subject to demand
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Conservation and Land Management – Certificate II

Time: Wednesday 9.30am – 3.30pm
 Cost: \$1232 / \$555 concession* plus \$650 additional cost for field trip
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Core Skills for Work – Vocational Preparation

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Education Support: Teacher's Aide or Certificate III

Time: Wednesday 9am – 3.30pm
 Cost: \$1552 / \$727 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Event Management

Time: Monthly and term options available
 Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession* or free internship
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Venue and Facilities Management

Time: On-the-job training
 Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession* or free internship
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Journalism, Media and Printing

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Retail Operations NEW

Time: Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm (five sessions)
 Cost: \$65 / \$55 concession*

Train the Trainer

Time: Monday 6pm – 9pm (three sessions)
 Cost: \$475 / \$375 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

FOUNDATION SKILLS

Career Planning and Advice

Time: By appointment
 Cost: \$99 / \$55 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Home Away From Homework Club

Primary (Grades 4–6)

Time: Wednesday 3.30 – 5pm

Secondary (Grades 7–12)

Time: Tuesday 3.30 – 5pm

Cost: \$37 / \$27 concession*

Venue: North Melbourne Library

Open (Grades 4–10)

Time: Thursday 3.30 – 5pm

Cost: Free to City of Hobsons Bay residents

Venue: Altona North Community Library

Management Studies: Business Communications or Compliance

Frameworks or Understanding Workplace Documents and Processes

Time: Wednesday 12.30 – 3.30pm or 6pm – 9pm

Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Financial Literacy

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm
 Cost: Free for those sleeping rough, others \$55

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Job Seeker Skills

Time: Monday 1pm – 3pm

Cost: Free for those sleeping rough

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Basic Skills

Time: Friday 1pm – 2pm

Cost: Free for those sleeping rough

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Return to Study and Study Support

Time: Friday 1pm – 3pm

Cost: \$99 / \$55 concession*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Self-development Short Courses:

Human Resources for Small Business

Quality Customer Service

Time: Wednesday 6pm – 9pm (two sessions)

Cost: \$99 / \$55 concession*

Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Active at Any Age

Time: Second and third Tuesday

monthly #

10am – 12 noon

Cost: \$41 / \$31 concession*

Venue: North Melbourne Library

Pilates:

Venues: ¹The Meat Market, Blackwood Street, or ²The Legion, Little Errol Street (behind The Centre)

Cost: Pilates and Exercise for Older Adults programs: \$190 / \$139 concession*

Beginners

Time: Thursday 5.30 – 6.30pm¹

Exercise for Older Adults

Time: Wednesday 10.15 – 11.15am²

General Classes for any level

Time: Tuesday 5.30 – 6.30pm¹
 Tuesday 6.30 – 7.30pm¹
 Wednesday 9.15 – 10.15am²

Intermediate

Time: Thursday 7.30 – 8.30pm¹

Intermediate Plus

Time: Thursday 6.30 – 7.30pm¹

INFORMATION, DIGITAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

Information, Digital Media and Technology

Time: Monday 10am – 12 noon
 Wednesday 10am – 12 noon / 1pm – 3pm / 6.30pm – 8.30pm #
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Computer Skills: INTEL® Easy Steps

Time: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
 Cost: \$137 / \$108 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Drop-in One to One Sessions

One-on-one training arranged with instructor
 Time: By appointment, bring your own device(s)
 Cost: First four hours \$108 and thereafter \$56 per session
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

Introduction to Technology

Bring your own iPad or iPhone or laptop to class to learn.

Time: Wednesday 10am – 12 noon / 6.30pm – 8.30pm # (four sessions in group setting)
 Cost: \$108 / \$56 concession*
 Venue: 58 Errol St, North Melbourne

* subject to conditions

subject to staff-student ratios

CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS ON:

Spoken and Written English Courses
 Discovery Walks – Art, Architecture and History Walking Group
 Ready, Steady – Walk Docklands
 Basic Self-Defence
 Volunteering

Join us at The Centre's events in 2018!

Carolyne Venn, Community Development Coordinator

With both Neighbourhood House Week and National Volunteer Week taking place in May, this is the perfect opportunity to highlight the importance of The Centre's role as a Neighbourhood House and a Learn Local organisation.

We are about community.

Every week over 188,000 people access Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria.

The Centre runs activities ranging from health and wellbeing classes such as pilates to information technology courses, the Home Away From Homework Club, art sessions, Centre Adventures (day field trips), a volunteer program and more. We also offer programs that address unemployment, family violence, homelessness and community resilience, as well as some that assist offenders.

We work with people from all walks of life and try to ensure at all times that we offer a safe, friendly environment for everyone. If someone is in need, they are welcome to walk through our door and we will assist in whatever way we can. Sometimes this may just be by letting them use our facilities, making a coffee and having a chat, at other times it's about offering guidance and direction to people on their pathways towards success.

Volunteers are a huge part of The Centre's activities. It is their involvement that makes

our Home Away From Homework Club, our newspaper, the *North and West Melbourne News*, and our events, particularly the Spanish Language Fiesta and the Spring Fling Street Festival, so successful. These activities encourage local residents and other community members to become involved in their community and gain a sense of belonging and being connected.

This year's Volunteer Week runs from 21 to 27 May and the theme is *Give a little. Change a lot.*

Some events taking place over the next few months are:

Spanish Language Fiesta

Saturday 7 April, 11.00am to 4.00pm

George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street, North Melbourne

Anzac Day Ceremony, working with the Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women Sunday 22 April, 2.00pm

North and West Melbourne Cenotaph, corner Victoria and Hawke streets

Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea

Tuesday 5 June, 10.00am to 12.00 noon

Venue to be confirmed

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our wonderful volunteers for their generous contribution to The Centre and our community.

Are you ready for the Spanish Language Fiesta?

Tatiana Echeverri, Event Coordinator

4.00pm, in George Johnson Lane and Little Errol Street.

We call on stallholders, performers and food-truck operators to submit expressions of interest in taking part in the Spanish Language Fiesta. All community members are welcome to present ideas about different ways to participate in the event.

Contact us for more information:

The Centre
58 Errol Street, North Melbourne 3051
Website: www.centre.org.au
Email: staff@centre.org.au
Phone: (03) 9328 1126



SPORT & HEALTH

North Melbourne community swims to fight MS

Kelly Tyndall

This year marks the sixth anniversary of the North Melbourne MS 24 Hour Mega Swim event, supported by the City of Melbourne, North Melbourne Recreation Centre and Melbourne City Baths.

On Friday 2 March, over 100 people will swim for 24 hours in the North Melbourne pool in support of people living with multiple sclerosis.

Community host Angela Hann has been the driving force behind the event, participating in the Hann family team, since 2013. She says the best thing about being involved in the MS 24 Hour Mega Swim is "supporting an amazing cause, and being involved in what is a social, supportive and completely non-competitive event that is simply about doing something significant for others".

While swimming in support of people living with multiple sclerosis is the main draw of the event, there will also be plenty of activities to participate in: a poolside cinema, sausage sizzle, DJ and the opportunity to hear from someone affected by the disease.

This year the team hope to raise \$40,000. Funds raised go toward funding the Go for Gold scholarship program and financial assistance programs. Go for Gold scholarships allow someone living with MS to reach their full potential in life, including employment, sport, travel, education and the arts. Financial assistance programs provide direct and immediate support for some of the 23,000 Australians living with multiple sclerosis.

Over the past six years, the North Melbourne MS 24 Hour Mega Swim has raised over \$163,000, with the community coming



The Hann Family & Co team at the 2017 North Melbourne MS 24 Hour Mega Swim

Photo: Ben Vella, Shoot Everything

together to swim to fight MS. The generous contributions and support for people living with multiple sclerosis have been outstanding.

Angela Hann encourages everyone to take

the plunge. "Don't hesitate to get involved," she encourages. "It's such a novel event and one that will definitely leave you with lasting memories and a feeling of having contributed

a little bit of good to the world."

To get involved next year please visit www.msmeaswim.org.au or contact the team at MS on 1300 733 690.

Gardasil: a local invention, effective and safe

**Dr Alastair Stark and
Dr Graham Jacobs,
Royal Park Medical**

An article titled 'Gardasil: fast-tracked and flawed', by Katrina Kincade-Sharkey, was published in the Spring edition of NWMN. The title of the article was actually the title of a book written by Helen Lobato [Ref 1], and the article went on to present the arguments made in this book.

The article essentially presented an argument that the Gardasil vaccine, against human papilloma virus (HPV), is dangerous. Some evidence was quoted to demonstrate that there have been adverse reactions to the vaccine in some people.

As with all medical treatments, bad outcomes cannot completely be avoided. It is distressing to consider serious complications to a routine medical intervention, especially in children, but as a population we do tolerate a certain amount of risk in many things we do. All medications can cause side effects. For example, deaths do occur with penicillin, but the risk is low enough that most people still accept the prescription.

In contrast, the authorities that monitor adverse effects have not attributed any deaths directly to the administration of the Gardasil vaccine, despite international data covering several million subjects. This has been a controversial topic, but the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Committee on the Safety of Vaccines has expressed concern that reporting of "unsubstantiated allegations" and "spurious case reports" will cause serious harm [Ref 2].

The article stated on more than one occasion

that the vaccine was ineffective, but no evidence was quoted from the book or elsewhere to back up that assertion, and no consideration was given in the article to the more widely held and evidence-based opinion that it is effective [Ref 3]. It is correct to say that studies showing a reduction in cancer rates following vaccination are not yet available. Many longer-term follow-up studies are underway, particularly in Australia, and initial results are only positive [Ref 4].

The article criticises the clinical trials that demonstrated that the vaccines were good at preventing HPV infection in the first place. These studies were of course conducted by the manufacturers of the vaccines. The author suggests that this is not ideal, but it is unclear who else might develop and fund the testing of vaccines if not these corporations that were established with exactly that aim. Many useful medical treatments have been discovered by private pharmaceutical companies in past years.

There is a wide consensus that almost all cervical cancer is linked with papilloma virus (the article dismisses this link, but the evidence is rather extensive and hard to dismiss on the opinion of one or two individuals) [Ref 5]. As the link is causative, there are two reasons why it might not be appropriate to run placebo-controlled trials of the vaccine using cancer as an outcome — particularly that it would not be ethical to submit those in the placebo arm to the risk of cancer when it is widely believed that HPV is the cause, and the other that such trials would have a very long duration as cancer takes many years to develop after HPV infection.

The lessons of the Cartwright Inquiry in New Zealand [Ref 6] may be pertinent here. One of the findings of this inquiry was that re-

searchers continued to investigate the progression of cervical carcinoma *in situ* when most experts in Europe, the USA and Australia considered that carcinoma *in situ* was a precursor of invasive cervical cancer. The lessons learnt are that ethically we cannot put people at risk when doing the kind of research that provides unequivocal answers to such questions.

Despite assertion to the contrary in the article, cervical cancer is still a very concerning disease to many. The article correctly quoted the statistic that about 900 people contract cervical cancer each year in Australia. It is the 14th most common cancer. It also stated that mortality after five years is about 25 per cent of those people [Ref 7]. What was not made clear, however, is that many of those people are young.

Over 200 cases per year occur in people aged under 40. Any mortality in that age group from cancer is a major concern. Most women do attend regularly for the cervical screening tests, suggesting that they are concerned about this disease. Despite our well-resourced national cervical screening program that began in 1991, we have not really made a dent in the death rates from cervical cancer for nearly 20 years. Is it reasonable then to say that this number of deaths is acceptable?

Unfortunately, Indigenous Australians are much more likely to get cervical cancer, and rates in the developing world are far higher, and mortality is higher. It is the fourth most common female cancer worldwide and the second most common in less developed regions [Ref 8]. Screening may not be a practical solution for populations in some parts of the world, but vaccination will eventually offer more hope.

We hope that readers can consider the wealth of evidence behind an intervention

such as papilloma virus vaccination. We do not wish campaigners such as Helen Lobato to be prevented from airing their views, and we do not dismiss the side effects that some people have to the vaccine. When considered in totality, though, the evidence is very strong that vaccination is one of the most important preventative health interventions available to us in the modern age.

The writers declare no conflict of interest regarding the Gardasil vaccine or its manufacturers.

References:

- Ref 1: *Gardasil: Fast-Tracked and Flawed*, Helen Lobato, Spinifex Press, 2017, ISBN: 9781742199931
- Ref 2: Extract from report of GACVS meeting of 7–8 June 2017, *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, 14 July 2017, vol. 92, 28 (p.398)
- Ref 3: Lee and Garland: 'Human papillomavirus vaccination: the population impact', *F1000 Research* 2017, 6 (F1000 Faculty Rev): 86
- Ref 4: Garland et al: 'Impact and Effectiveness of the Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: A Systematic Review of 10 Years of Real-world Experience', *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Volume 63, Issue 4, 15 August 2016, pp 519–527
- Ref 5: Walboomers J.M., Jacobs M.V., Manos M.M. et al: 'Human papillomavirus is a necessary cause of invasive cervical cancer worldwide', *J Pathol*, 1999; 189(1): 12–9
- Ref 6: www.cartwrightinquiry.com
- Ref 7: AIHW: Australian Cancer Incidence and Mortality (ACIM) books, December 2017, available here: www.aihw.gov.au/reports/cancer/acim-books/contents/acim-books
- Ref 8: WHO Global Cancer Observatory, www.iarc.fr/today/home

Growing stronger at The Huddle with NMFC

Victor McMillan

In 2007 the North Melbourne Football Club very nearly relocated to the Gold Coast. Teetering on the edge of financial ruin, the club was feeling the pressure from a league body eager to establish a second team in Queensland.

After a wave of public support from fans and financial backers in late 2007, the Kangaroos, founded in 1869, successfully rejected the move and chose to remain in Melbourne.

Following this decision, the club made two crucial moves. The first was reverting to the name 'North Melbourne Football Club' instead of simply the 'Kangaroos', and the second was investing in a major redevelopment of their Arden Street facilities.

Along with this upgrade, NMFC committed to a course of meaningful investment in community involvement. Since that time the club has established itself as one of the leading sporting organisations in Australia in this area.

A key pillar of NMFC's community focus has been their close involvement in 'The Huddle'. Established in 2010, The Huddle was a joint initiative of the North Melbourne Football Club, the Scanlon Foundation and the Australian Multicultural Foundation.

In 2018, The Huddle is still going strong. Operating alongside the club's facilities on Arden Street, the organisation is an entirely separate entity to NMFC, providing a number of programs with and without the partnership of the club and its players.

Run primarily by volunteers, The Huddle offers education, sport and school football programs. Open to anyone in the local or surrounding areas aged between 12 and 25, these free programs have a particular emphasis on

assisting young people who have recently arrived in Australia.

"It's really important, especially for newly-arrived young people looking for connections and opportunities. They need assistance sometimes with education and with finding their way around. Sport is a really good way to attract young people to different parts of North Melbourne," says Sue McGill, The Huddle's regional manager.

"We work with a whole range of different cultural backgrounds and different communities in and around the City of Melbourne but North Melbourne in particular, so we try to provide a place for young people to learn, grow and belong. They're our three key planks."

Tutoring programs operate out of The Huddle on Arden Street five nights a week, with help available from the staff, volunteer university students and also a number of North Melbourne players.

"It's amazing the interest and backgrounds of some of those players," McGill says. "We've got wizzes in anywhere from maths to psychology, all sorts of players with expertise in different areas who come down and tutor for us on a nightly basis and also run a range of leadership programs."

As well as assisting with the homework programs, North Melbourne players also provide regular sport clinics and activities to Huddle participants.

Through these activities and exercises on the Arden Street oval, the players provide both sports training and mentoring to large groups on a consistent basis, instilling not only football skills but also values such as work ethic, teamwork and leadership.

Over the years many North Melbourne players have contributed their time to The Huddle. Two key individuals, however, have been An-

drew Swallow, North Melbourne captain from 2012 to 2016, and Majak Daw, the first-ever South Sudanese player drafted to the AFL.

Swallow and Daw have worked closely with the program, working with the participants as well as advocating for it on a public level.

"We're using footy as a vehicle to attract the kids, firstly to get them engaged in our game but more importantly to support them in other areas," Daw told the ABC.

"I feel a sense of pride that my footy club, you know, allows these kids to come in and provides all these programs for them. And for these guys, there's not much better than getting to hang out with the stars of their new favourite game," Daw elaborated.

Beyond the North Melbourne Football Club connection, a number of different organisations and groups across Australia have backed the program.

One of the founders was the Scanlon Foundation, an organisation dedicated to making a meaningful and tangible contribution to the successful transition of migrants into Australian society.

The foundation has worked closely with North Melbourne on The Huddle since 2010, a connection that continues to thrive today.

"I think it works because it is genuine, an organisation who genuinely wants to engage with its community, genuinely wants to know its community better and to attract them through a lot of things that are a part of the way a football club does business," Anthea Hancocks, CEO of the Scanlon Foundation, explains.

"The Huddle is deliberately designed to engage with the community, the broader community around the North Melbourne Football Club and areas where the North Melbourne Football Club operate ... in all of those areas



it's a very diverse community, so The Huddle is specifically designed to be a welcoming place for young people in those particular areas."

Many who regularly attend The Huddle are from East African backgrounds, primarily from South Sudan and Somalia. The program aims to assist those making what can be a difficult adjustment to life in Melbourne.

"Discrimination is definitely one of the biggest issues they face, especially those that are particularly visibly different. They face a really significant amount of discrimination, which is one of their biggest hurdles ... people make assumptions about who they are or what they're like without even getting to know them," Hancocks adds.

"You'll find that there are young people who come to The Huddle who only maybe arrived in Australia when they were 14 and they can acquire the language and be able to pass their final-year exams in a space of a few years — it's quite extraordinary."

After eight years of hard work, The Huddle continues to be a leading organisation in assisting young migrants with education as well as a wide variety of intangibles and skills, all on offer free of charge. The program has now worked with over 60,000 participants, helping them to achieve their mantra to 'learn, grow and belong'.

Life! program reduces type 2 diabetes risk

Kelly Eng

Many of us pledge to lose weight and get healthy as part of our new year's resolution, only to find unhealthy habits creeping back in again by February.

Overweight and obesity is a major risk factor for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and with close to 3 million Victorian adults now categorised as overweight or obese, it's important to act now to reduce your risk.

Being active and eating nutritious and balanced meals are just two of the changes people can make to reduce their risk, although making lifestyle changes is not easy to do on your own.

"Many people do not know where to start or are confused by conflicting health information," Diabetes Victoria CEO Craig Bennett says. "This is where the *Life!* program comes in. *Life!* is a free, evidence-based program that helps Victorians reduce their risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease."

Participants can choose to do a group course in their local area or telephone health coaching and are supported by health professionals to

learn more about nutrition, being physically active, sleep, stress and managing lapses.

Life! group course facilitator and exercise physiologist Nicole French says: "Joining the *Life!* program is a fantastic way to stay on track and to follow through with your 2018 health goals. *Life!* isn't about crash diets or quick fixes — we give participants the motivation and support they need to make healthy decisions and maintain healthy behaviours over the long term."

Andrew is one of the many participants who have turned their lives around with the program. The 29-year-old major insurance company worker lost 30 kilograms last year, giving his confidence and self-esteem a "much-needed boost".

"If you really want to make a change," Andrew says, "or just properly educate yourself about your health, or the impact food and exercise have on your wellbeing, I would recommend the *Life!* program every day of the week."

Since 2007, over 50,000 Victorians have commenced the *Life!* program. Funded by the Victorian Government and managed by



***Life!* group facilitator Luke Daley**

Photo: Life! program, Diabetes Victoria

Diabetes Victoria, it is the largest prevention program of its type in Australia.

For more information on program eligibility

and to check your risk of type 2 diabetes, visit www.lifeprogram.org.au or call 13 RISK (13 74 75).

Welcome to Hop Nation Sunday sessions!

Roge Scott

City of Melbourne Bowls Club (CoMBC), in conjunction with sponsors Hop Nation and Terry Banfield Group Superworks, will be hosting FREE barefoot bowling sessions every Sunday afternoon in April commencing 7 April, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm, come rain, hail or shine.

Lawn bowls is a great sport for fitness, fun and friendship — it's a sport for all ages and abilities.

If you have ever wanted to try, or participate in, lawn bowls, this is the ideal opportunity to come along and find out more. We will show you how to bowl in this family-friendly, welcoming club, which is located in the picturesque Flagstaff Gardens.

What's included each week:

- All equipment supplied
- 3 x 6 end games per Sunday
- Two bowls per player
- No experience necessary
- Spot prizes
- Coaching
- Light finger food
- Teams can be made up on the day

- Players are interchangeable
- Bare feet or flat-soled shoes required to be worn (thongs available at the club if required)
- AFL matches will be shown on the club's big screen
- Hop Nation Brewing Company beer specials all day and drinks at members' prices

You'll find out more about the game of bowls and what CoMBC has to offer with the vast benefits of membership — and you'll make new friends!

This is a friendly, casual introduction to bowls and even if the weather is not so inviting there will be other activities (board games, cards, carpet bowls) taking place in our wonderful modern lounge. So invite your work colleagues, family and friends to come along and enjoy four weeks of great fun.

There is no need to book, everyone is welcome. The bar will be open, with tea and coffee provided. We look forward to meeting you!

For further details check out our website, www.citybowls.org, or email playbowls@citybowls.net.

Roge Scott is a City of Melbourne Bowls Club accredited coach.



Photo: Madelene Diego



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Quoc Ho
(Physiotherapist)

NMLL's Autumn Harvest Long Table Feast!

Nikki Blanch

North Melbourne Language & Learning (NMLL) would like to invite the local and wider community to participate in a very special event, the Autumn Harvest Long Table Feast, to be held on Friday 27 April from 6.00pm to 9.00pm.

This event will take place in the beautiful Supper Room at Kensington Town Hall and will be fully catered by local community cooks who have recently participated in a program called Connected Cultures – Empowered Communities (CC-EC).

The CC-EC project aims to provide an intimate intercultural exchange and learning opportunity to workshop participants. Workshop facilitators are local community members who have learnt through a series of training and mentoring programs how to confidently deliver a workshop that showcases their cultural cuisine. The workshops place value on their

unique cultural knowledge and expertise, thus supporting skills development and employment pathways.

For many of them, this is the first time that a family recipe has been translated from an oral narrative and offered to the wider community to learn, so that everyone plays a part in preserving a traditional family recipe.

The Long Table Feast will be a delicious showcase of the traditional foods of El Salvador, Somalia, Vietnam, Colombia and Ethiopia, held during the autumn harvest in Australia yet with a focus on how the harvest season is celebrated in the cooks' countries of origin. Each dish will be accompanied by a story, and there will be opportunities to meet the cooks and mingle with neighbours you may not have met.

There will also be some music and performance in keeping with the different cultural themes. You can expect to be entertained by a Colombian dance troupe while tasting varieties of the delicious *arepas* that are unique to Colombia.

Savour the unique flavours of a Somali stew called *hulbat marakh*, using your hand to scoop it up with the traditional flatbread, *injera*. Or watch how *pupusas*, corn tortillas typical of El Salvadorian street food, are made, and enjoy them topped with zesty salad and salsa. The food on offer is truly unique and cannot be found in any local restaurants.

This dinner will replicate the experience of being invited into someone's home for a home-cooked meal!

This is a bookings-only event, with numbers capped at 60 people, to allow for a wonderfully intimate and friendly community feast where you will mingle with people from many different countries. For booking information, please go to the NMLL website at www.nmll.org.au or to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/vNMLL, and see our events listing.

Nikki Blanch is the community development worker at NMLL.



Letina Woldu performing a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony at NMLL's 2017 Harvest Festival *Photo: Manatosh Chakma*

Is artificial intelligence smarter than you?

Ian Truong

It took almost half a century for the term 'artificial intelligence' (AI), created by IBM in 1956, to be fully applied by Microsoft in its searching service Cortana in 2014. In 2016, self-driving vehicles created by Google were acknowledged as drivers in the United States, which suggests that self-driving vehicles will become a reality very soon.

In Saudi Arabia in 2017, 'Sophia' became the world's first robot to be granted citizenship, in an attempt to boost that country's reputation in the technology field.

These and many more achievements depended on advanced AI. The phenomenon that once belonged strictly to the realms of science fiction is now gradually integrating into our lives.

Those who were born before the 1990s would recall the blooming of the internet. Since then, driven by strong demand for the convenience of instant communication, the internet has become a standard, even crucial, component of most businesses. Sooner rather than later, AI will follow down that path.

There are people who rail against the vision of machinery taking over human beings' intellectual function and challenging the privilege that humans have enjoyed as

supposedly possessing the only truly analytical brains on Earth. Inevitably, however, AI-equipped machines will outperform us in most fields in the next 10 years, from physical manufacturing to creative work.

Imagine a person who begins to learn a skill today only to be outperformed by an automated item created days before that person's mastery of the task. The tool took a good decade to develop, but only months to apply.

Ex-Google man Andy Rubin, a co-founder of Android, now has his own company that is creating a device that can 'train' other devices. His vision is to create a 'one size fits all' operating system (OS) that will find a way to adapt and integrate with other surrounding devices.

This so-called Playground OS would eventually be able to analyse the actives in its active cycle and provide the requested service. One idea is a camera that Rubin says uses AI to analyse everything that's happening in your house. "You can ask if the kids went to school on time and it can answer."

Rubin, the man who created Android as a start-up, which now powers 85 per cent of smartphones, has an ambitious vision for Playground OS.

Locally, RMIT University has been providing AI courses for the last few years. The university has been doing its own research on applications of AI and reaping early results.

With recent investment from the Defence Science and Technology Group, a branch of Australia's Department of Defence, AI in RMIT's research and courses is no longer theoretical.

There are debates about the necessity and practicality of AI.

A literature competition has seen the introduction of writing done almost entirely by a machine. A Japanese short-form novel competition received a work called *The Day a Computer Writes a Novel*. As indicated by the title, a team operated an AI bot and programmed in pre-selected sentences and words. The program then finished the novel, which was submitted without the judges knowing its author.

Although it passed the first round of screening, the AI entry did not win the literature prize, nor did it write the complete work without human guidance, but it was a promising start for such an intellectual and creative task. And this happened back in 2015.

In the world of technology, a single day can see a great invention or development emerge. While many of us are still uncertain about the concept of AI, we now have the term 'deep learning' to contend with. Deep learning can be understood as a machine's way of 'practising'. A program analyses past actions and devises a more efficient system for the future.

Dive.ai is a company that provides a self-driving service. In the last three years the world has witnessed a significant change in technology and legislation regarding humanless cars. It is no fiction that we will probably see self-driving cars among us within the next three years.

For half a century AI was the stuff of fiction. It featured in dozens of movies, numerous books, articles and even warnings about itself. It is quite possible that within the next 50 years AI and its deep-learning function will be teaching the next generation how to drive. That is, if cars are still being driven by people.

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Santorini bliss

Suzie Luddon

Santorini. The very name conjures up images of azure blue skies and glistening seas, jet-setting elegance and sophistication.

Eschewing the jet, which would have had us there in an hour, we instead board the 7.30am ferry at the port of Piraeus, just outside of Athens. In seven hours we'll disembark at the crescent-shaped island, torn asunder by a massive volcanic eruption 3600 years ago.

Settling down in one of the ship's cafes, we check out our fellow passengers. Despite the early hour, the bar is open, and some diehards are soon propping it up. It's still a bit brisk in the last week of May, but different kinds of diehards are out on deck.

The selfie stick has well and truly arrived as a can't-leave-home-without-it travel accessory. We watch as a young woman poses in front of

her selfie stick, oblivious to the chill wind and to her bemused audience of onlookers. Striking pose after pose, all that seemingly matters to her is getting the perfect several hundred shots and presumably posting them online.

Tiring of this hours before she does, we explore the ship, eventually finding a nice cosy spot to witness the two stops at the islands of Paros and Naxos, the ship hardly stopping long enough to disgorge large numbers of passengers and take on an equal number before sailing off again. Getting more and more accustomed to island life before we've even set foot on one, we agree that sailing around the Aegean is a very fine way to spend a day.

Approaching the island of Santorini, we join in the oohs and aahs of the other travellers as we take in the stunning views of the caldera and cliffs. It is truly a sight to behold. Eager to ascend the steep hill to our hotel, we battle our way through the throngs of buses and taxis at the port, eventually finding the driver who

will deliver us to our hotel, a mere 15 minutes' drive away.

Our village of Karterados is in the middle of Santorini and is a delight. With centuries-old alleyways lined with equally ancient stone houses, decorated with flowering plants and coloured shutters, this place is brimming with rustic charm.

The next morning, we eat our first proper Greek breakfast of olives, feta, bread, fruit and yoghurt on our balcony in the morning sun, enjoying the vista of farmlands stretching down to the blue expanse of the sea beyond. After breakfast we wander up to the village and hire a motorbike from Panos's bike shop and set off to explore.

Taking Panos's advice, we take the coast road around and up to Oia and we instantly recognise it as the village of a thousand postcards.

Whitewashed stone houses (and more than a few resorts) cascade down the cliff face, all of them with stunning caldera views. This is the place of legendary sunsets, astonishing views, and prices that match the heights of the clifftop. It's undeniably beautiful, and we wander a way down the cliff and then climb back up, marvelling at the inventive construction of houses, hotels, pools and restaurants on land that is almost vertical in parts.

We enjoy a pleasant lunch gazing at the gigantic cruise ships anchored out in the caldera and note that most of the hordes of people here are probably day-trippers from one of the ships. Not one to enjoy mingling with too many others clamouring for the famous views, after a few hours I'm happy to ride on out of Oia.

Another day on the scooter and this time we head around to the southern end of the island's crescent. It's early in the morning and the views as we hit the coast road are breathtaking. We stop for what turns out to be the worst coffee in Santorini to take in what we think are the best views. It's opposite Oia in more ways than one.

There's no one else here and we relish the peace, the views and the stillness. Heading further down the coast, we go right to the land's end of this side of the crescent, where we eat fresh fruit bought from a roadside vendor as we clamber around the coastal trails. *Yasou!*

That evening we stroll up to Thira to see the obligatory sunset and are lucky enough to nab a bench seat from which to survey the spectacle. The place is thronging with tourists, many of whom fill up the clifftop restaurants. The sunset doesn't disappoint, and as the sun goes down the street entertainment sparks up, giving a festive atmosphere to this daily routine of the sun doing what it always does.

But from here, it looks like it's the first time,

every time. As we often did on this trip, we imagine the hand that the gods had in bestowing such heavenly beauty on this place.

Over the next few days we discover the Santorini that we come to love. It's a million miles away from the views and the crowds. We find it in the people we talk to while we're out walking around, who have lived here for generations and know every nook and cranny of their village. We find it exploring our village and getting accustomed to the gentle pace of life and the sense of community.

We find it even in our hotel, where, chatting to our host one day, she tells us how she came here from the UK for a holiday at the age of 18 and met and fell in love with a local boy. They married and settled in his home village of Karterados and set about building a hotel and having a family.

We meet a few expats during our Greek odyssey, and it's in their stories and in the stories of the locals that the curiosity that stokes the desire to travel is satisfied.

All too soon we're back at the ferry dock, bound for Naxos. It's a precision operation, as our horde of travellers is corralled into a holding bay while the next horde disembarks, headed for their own version of Santorini bliss.



Thira sunset

Photo: Suzie Luddon

Recipe: Moroccan chicken with pearl couscous salad

Ian Truong

In autumn, with its typical chilly wind, a mild spicy chicken dish is the perfect cosy dinner. With prep time around 15 minutes and only 20 minutes cooking time, this Moroccan chicken recipe is a healthy, fresh and tasty dinner, serving four people. It's also a nice way to taste some traditional Moroccan flavours and spices!

Ingredients

1 kg of chicken tenderloin
1 large brown onion
4 cloves of garlic
1 bunch of coriander
1 lemon or lime
2 tablespoons ground cumin
4 tablespoons turmeric
4 small bird-eye chillies
1 small red capsicum
2 tablespoons Moroccan spice (mild or hot)
Olive oil
4 tablespoons Greek yoghurt (optional)
800 mL of water
250 g pearl couscous (stocked at supermarkets)
Mixed salad for serving

Method

- Boil 800 mL of water. Meanwhile, finely dice half the onion and 2 cloves of garlic. Sauté the onion and garlic with pearl couscous in a hot pan with oil for roughly one minute. Add the boiling water and simmer for 10–12 minutes. The couscous will absorb the water and cook through; fluff with a fork. It is optional to use butter for a creamier taste.
- Whilst waiting for the couscous to cook, roughly cut up the remaining onion and garlic, capsicum and chillies (seeds removed). Place them in a food processor with the leaves from the coriander and blend together. Add olive oil to smooth the mixture until desired consistency is achieved.
- Combine the blended mixture in a bowl with the spices. Put the chicken tenderloin and yoghurt (optional) into the bowl, as well as the juice of the lemon. Coat the chicken thoroughly.
- Heat a frying pan with oil. Add the chicken and cook on both sides, until cooked and golden in colour.
- Remove chicken from the frying pan and serve with the couscous and mixed salad. Season to taste with extra salt, pepper, Moroccan spice and olive oil.

Enjoy!



An unusually deserted Thira

Photo: Suzie Luddon

HISTORY

Denys Henry Harraway, 1932 – 2017

Felicity Jack

The Hotham History Project is saddened by the death of one of its early members, Denys Harraway. History in general, including the history of this area, was one of his many interests and he was a keen supporter of our activities and presentations.

Denys moved to North Melbourne in 1990 to take advantage of living close to Melbourne's centre. Before this he and Susan had lived in central San Francisco and they particularly valued the proximity of the theatres, art galleries and concert halls that were virtually on their doorstep. They first put down their roots in Dryburgh Street but later moved to an apartment in West Melbourne close to the railway station.

This apartment was in the old Guest's Biscuit Factory and Denys liked the idea of living in a place that had been recycled. He gave the Hotham History Project a short tour of the basement of the building on one of our walks. Another advantage of living close to the station was that they could get to the Arts Centre, the Melbourne Recital Centre and the attractions of Federation Square in a matter of minutes.

Denys was born in Dunedin in 1932 and he maintained a close connection with that city. He especially loved the 'crib' or riverside shack a few kilometres from the city centre that he and his two brothers inherited. So, while Denys spent a good part of his life living in cities, he maintained a love of rivers and the bush.

He was a keen supporter of Bush Heritage and was also a volunteer gardener at Como (in South Yarra) and the Portable Iron Houses in South Melbourne. Both properties are maintained by the National Trust.

Denys completed his undergraduate degree in metallurgical engineering at the University of Dunedin in 1955 and was appointed as a junior metallurgist in Queensland's Mount Isa Mines.

On being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, he continued his studies at the prestigious mining school of the University of Minnesota from 1956 to 1958. On his return he took up the position of senior metallurgist in Mount Isa Mines' research department. It was here, in 1961, that he met his future wife, Susan.

Susan had recently graduated as a teacher and was attracted by the idea of working in the outback. The State Government had initiated a program to attract young women — perhaps it might make the situation clearer to say 'young ladies' — to work in this community. She travelled to Mount Isa with around 20 other women including teachers, librarians, secretaries and typists.

They were overseen by a formidable woman and were expected to display all the attributes of female attractiveness — high heels, tight skirts and appropriate costume jewellery. The young women were provided with accommodation above the staff mess that Susan describes as little more than dogboxes. They ate in the staff mess room that catered for a large number of men from all over the world.

One or two women were attached to a table with a small number of men. Susan remembers the challenge of having to walk the length of the dining hall over a rubber-tiled floor pierced with small holes in her high heels to reach her table. She evidently passed all the tests because one of the men on her table was to become her husband.

Denys and Susan married on 10 February 1962 in Cairns. February can be wet in North Queensland, and on this day the rain had affected the sewerage system. Susan had to negotiate her way to the outside dunny in her wedding finery.

Susan had been born and brought up in Gor-

donvale and the wedding took place in an Anglican church in nearby Cairns. Their reception was held at a local Chinese restaurant. Susan remembers that they had little money to set up house, but luckily the tradition in mining communities was to pass down your old furniture as you moved on, and to 'make do' with what was available.

One useful commodity was a plentiful supply of fracture boxes, well-made wooden containers designed to carry explosives. These were sanded and painted to make attractive storage boxes. One piece of furniture that was part of an inheritance from a former miner was a monstrous varnished bedroom suite.

The patterned wardrobe had eyes that stared down at Susan. She must have been relieved to leave this behind her when, in 1964, she and Denys moved from Mount Isa to BHP's Central Research Laboratories in Newcastle.

Denys was responsible for processing minerals from the many mines owned by BHP throughout Australia, and in 1969 he was transferred to Melbourne as BHP's mineral sales development manager. This involved many trips overseas, particularly to Japan and Europe.

In 1974 he was promoted to president of BHP International, based in New York. This involved coordinating the activities of BHP in both North and South America. Denys and Susan, who by that time had two children, Jane and David, lived in New York, where the children attended school.

When his posting ended Denys had a brief interlude of six weeks in Geneva negotiating, on behalf of the Australian Government, on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly in relation to mineral rights.

Denys spent another four years in Melbourne at BHP's head office before being sent back to America for a further four years, this time to California, where the mining giant Utah International had its head office. Utah had been taken over by BHP and the company decided to transfer its American headquarters to San Francisco.

In 1989 Denys was involved in investigating the feasibility of establishing a spaceport at Cape York. He travelled extensively in the US, including Cape Canaveral and the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, investigating the technologies required for such a project. America was sensitive about New Zealanders because of their strong anti-nuclear stance, so it was at this time that Denys took out Australian citizenship to facilitate entry to these tightly controlled centres.

Denys spent a couple of months prior to his retirement in China, filling in for the BHP representative who was recalled to Australia for a training course.



Susan (left) and Denys on their wedding day

Photo: courtesy Susan Harraway

His retirement was always busy. Although he'd travelled extensively for work he had also visited many countries as a tourist, fascinated by different countries and their cultures. He read deeply and continued to enjoy opera, concerts, art and theatre until the end of his life. He also enjoyed good food and wine and entertaining.

Another interest was volunteering, and he was actively involved in church activities. Denys was a longstanding and valued member of the North and West Melbourne Association, serving on its committee for a number of years. Representing the association or himself, he lodged objections to development proposals in West Melbourne that he considered inappropriate and attended resultant VCAT hearings, putting his case eloquently and in a style of his own.

According to a fellow association member,

Denys was undeterred by the tribunal's protocol, on one occasion interrupting the developer's lawyer, a highly-paid QC, several times, until the chairperson gave up trying to call him to order. No doubt, if he had been well enough, Denys would have contributed to the panel hearing on the EES for the West Gate Tunnel Project.

He was also quick to acknowledge what he saw as positive additions to the neighbourhood, such as the park expansion at Stawell and Miller streets and Railway Place, writing to the council to express his appreciation and make constructive suggestions. His valuable contributions to the local community will be missed.

Felicity Jack is a committee member of the Hotham History Project.



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Chris Saliba

The Future Won't Be Long
Jarett Kobek
(Serpent's Tail. \$32.99)



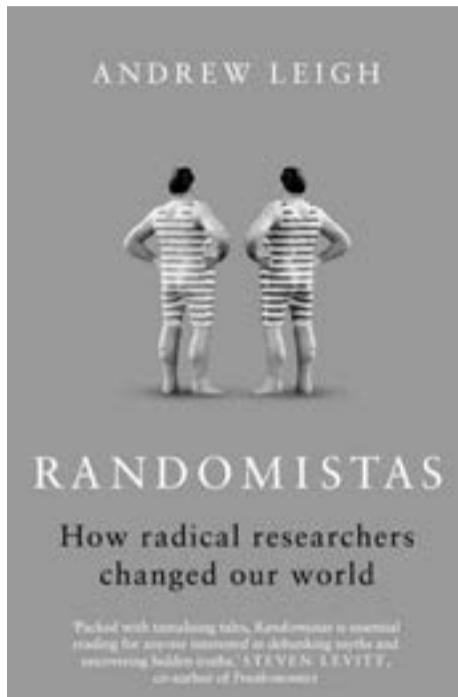
It's 1986. A gay 18-year-old farmboy leaves his Wisconsin home after his parents die in strange circumstances. He renames himself Baby, moves to New York and on his first night meets the flamboyant Adeline. She is only slightly older than him and talks like a campy Hollywood actress of the silver screen era. Soon the two are inseparable and will take their friendship on a rollercoaster ride through the following decade.

Jarett Kobek's *The Future Won't Be Long* works almost as a prequel to his previous novel, *I Hate the Internet*. The story is alternately narrated by Baby, who will eventually become a science fiction writer (among other things), and Adeline, who makes a name for herself as a comic-book artist.

A dizzying glitterball of a book, one that seems to spin faster and faster, Kobek brings to life the drugs, sex, nightclubs, artists, writers, drag queens and oddballs that made up New York's underground scene of the 1980s and '90s. In between the parties and name-dropping (with appearances from Quentin Crisp, Norman Mailer, David Wojnarowicz, Bret Easton Ellis etc) there is plenty of biting commentary on the many ills of American society.

Brilliant and genre-busting, *The Future Won't Be Long* is like nothing you've read before.

Randomistas: How radical researchers changed our world
Andrew Leigh
(La Trobe University Press. \$29.99)



In 1747 a ship's surgeon named James Lind ran an early version of a randomised test. Scurvy had long been the scourge of sea travel; huge numbers of men died of it at sea. In order to try and discover the cause of the disease, Lind tested six different treatments on six pairs of sailors. One of the trialled medicines was oranges and lemons. The results soon showed what worked: the sailors taking citrus fruit showed remarkable improvements.

In this informative and entertaining look at the world of random trials, Labor MP and former economics professor Andrew Leigh takes the reader through many fascinating examples, from crime and politics to technology and business. A recurring theme of *Randomistas* is how often the assumptions of experts and top officials are wrong. When it comes to making important decisions, Leigh urges we should be sticking to the science. Our own instincts aren't particularly reliable.

Full of weird and wonderful stories of random trials that threw out unexpected results (we even learn that *Sesame Street* uses randomised trials to tailor more effectively its programming), Andrew Leigh's book will reset the way you think and make you look at the world in new ways.

Dog Man and Cat Kid
Dav Pilkey
(Scholastic. \$15.99)



Once upon a time, when a policeman and his dog were caught in an explosion, it looked like it was curtains for both. But then a nurse had a great idea. Why not attach the man's body to the dog's head? And so was born Dog Man, crime-fighting super-hero.

Dog Man has made some great friends, such as Zuzu, the world's greatest poodle, but unfortunately he has one terrible enemy: Petey, the world's evilest cat. Petey has tried to clone himself, to double his evil powers, but botched the job and produced a super-cute little kitten called Li'L Petey.

Can Petey turn sweet Li'L Petey to a life of crime, or will his cute little clone find that he can be good and not evil? In this latest book in the hugely successful *Dog Man* series, there are mega-robots, adventures galore and a laugh on every page. The delightful Li'L Petey mesmerises with his adorable innocence, made all the funnier when contrasted against his evil 'Papa'. Parents will find much to appreciate in this novel-length cartoon story, with its clever mix of advanced vocabulary and kids' speech, sure to stretch reading skills.

Ages 7+

Chris Saliba is co-owner of North Melbourne Books, 546 Queensberry Street, and a regular contributor to the News.



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Living music school in North Melbourne



School of Living Music's 2017 end-of-year concert

Photo: School of Living Music

Columbia Winterton

Early 30 years ago Joni Mitchell sang that *"All I ever wanted/ Was to come in from the cold"*. This was written about specific situations. But when life feels like a perpetual flurry of appointments dictated by Google Calendar, and *"We're captive on the carousel of time"* (another, earlier Mitchell song), Mitchell's lyrics may resonate with us.

Andrew McSweeney has fostered just the space, a tonic for whatever 'the cold' may be for us, at the School of Living Music. Tucked away in Little Baillie Street, this sanctuary of a school is a nucleus for creativity and discovery.

An artistic wonderland of well-equipped studios, beautiful instruments including a lovely grand piano, all the high-tech recording equipment you might need, with a few tasteful carpets and sofas for good measure: what could be more inviting?

After a conversation with McSweeney, it's clear that his love of music and generosity to share is what shapes the space and paints it with warmth and colour. The school's talented teachers with their own love of music also reflect this spirit in their teaching.

McSweeney has been a musician for practically his whole life and has worked as a musician/singer/songwriter for 20 years. In his early years he trained conventionally in music and piano, but it was when he started playing in his brother's band, at age 14, that music

came alive.

"Suddenly it all started to make sense. I was playing the type of music I liked, I realised I had some skill. Then it [was] just learning that technique and learning to listen and play along," he reflects.

"We have the same philosophy at the school," he continues. "Really, it's about: I want to teach people how to play music and find a connection with an instrument that is continuous ... And that's by enjoying what you're playing, playing stuff that's fun, and getting better at it. You still have to practise, but if you're playing the stuff you like playing, then ... [you] just do it."

Some of the best teachers are arguably those who, in addition to teaching, work on their own projects, papers and ideas separate from teaching. McSweeney is one of them. His band Dirty Rascal has just released a single and its album *You be the king* is due to launch in July.

Talking about his own creative practice, McSweeney first tells how Philip Glass, when asked how he wrote his songs, said, "I listen and then listen some more", and how John Lennon said he never wrote 'Imagine', he just heard it. And it's the same for Andrew.

"It's about being open. Open to channelling whatever is coming through. I also hear songs, I'm not a person who sits down and writes songs ... I will hear someone say something, it might be a word or a line, and think, oh that's a really cool line.

"And then I'll start to imagine that line in a melody. Then I'll get to a point where I think,

what comes next? And I'll be open to receiving what comes next musically, pondering, and getting myself out of the way and allowing myself to just hear what's happening musically."

This creative process translates naturally into the school's pedagogy, particularly with the young students. McSweeney notes that some are so young they don't read yet. What he does is talk to them about their favourite things, what they like to do, and jots down some words.

Next, he gets the student to imagine what the words might sound like musically. "And then they sing the most beautiful melodies. They've got no preconceptions of 'I can't do this', they just do it."

Some of us know the pleasure, at times frustration, of playing music together with others. It not only challenges us and pushes us into uncharted musical territory but can also result in lifelong friendships.

For early-years students, but probably for all of us, when we play with others we learn to negotiate, to navigate working with other perspectives and to build trust. And it can be fun! McSweeney does emphasise this.

And what can be more fun than performing at our school concert! The School of Living Music presents two concerts a year.

The school's final 2017 concert was terrific, according to one member of the *News*. She was taken by Benji. Seated at a grand piano, feet dangling miles from the floor, he played Bach's *Minuet in G* very competently.

She was also impressed with students

performing songs they'd written. Skye, with Rocco on drums, sang 'Skye's song' and Holly sang 'Playing outside with my best friends'.

Maja sang Gaynor's 'I will survive' tremendously well and had good support from Kelly on bass, Isla (Maja's sister) on congas and Zola (Kelly's daughter) on drums. And the bands got to perform mostly in the second half. They were excellent too.

McSweeney contrasts the modest audience of 40-odd at the school's first concert. "Now we're getting 150-plus, so it's more of a challenge but it's good. And what's happening is that the musicians are just getting better."

On offer are lessons in bass, drums, guitar, piano, saxophone, violin, hip-hop, as well as workshops in songwriting and composition. Living Music studios can also be hired.

Now in its sixth year, the school has given much to hundreds of students of all ages and currently has about 90 students. If it's not quite yet the heart of North Melbourne, it might well be the aortic valve.

We are all welcome to come in out of the cold this winter and hang out at the School of Living Music's 2018 mid-year concert. The school also has a junior band and a senior band on Thursday nights — anyone can join. Most lessons take place from Monday to Thursday between 3.30 and 7.30pm.

School of Living Music

53 Little Baillie Street, North Melbourne 3051
Tel: 9329 0503
Website: www.livingmusic.com.au/

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THE GREENS

Authorised by D. Lawson, 296 Brunswick St, Fitzroy VIC 3065

Local performance and art centre reinvigorated

Conall Batch

The Australian Centre of Performance and Art (ACOPA) is a North Melbourne-based art and performance school run by Lindsay Saddington and partner Sunari Sooriaaratchi.

Located in a sprawling, four-storey laneway building at 14 Raglan Street, the centre is changing its name from the Australian Centre of Performing Arts to better reflect its focus on both performing and visual arts. Alongside its strong schedule of art and live performance shows through its public face, Club Voltaire, in 2018 ACOPA is placing a renewed emphasis on its training courses.

Since founding ACOPA 15 years ago, Lindsay Saddington has worked tirelessly to foster the local arts community and implement his vision for the performing arts. The courses offered cover acting for film or television, presentation skills, as well as dance and visual art.

The *North and West Melbourne News* sat down with Saddington and Sooriaaratchi to learn more about the ACOPA, its vision and the role it plays in the North and West Melbourne community.

The pair's approach to the arts is based on a holistic focus on individual experimentation and personal exploration. This goes hand-in-hand with their self-professed political method: to ensure freedom of expression and freedom of thought. This approach is heavily influenced by the pair's diverse backgrounds.

While studying theatre arts and philosophy, Saddington also studied psychology, sociology and industrial law. He has lectured and designed course modules for Deakin University and the William Bates Academy as well as community organisations and psychiatric institutions.

Sooriaaratchi began her career in radio, moving into advertising before returning to her main passion of visual art and completing

a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Monash University. She is heavily influenced by the artistic method of her native Colombo, Sri Lanka, and is excited to bring this unique approach to Melbourne.

Sooriaaratchi's individual focus centres on youth participation, and art as a healing process, based on her own experience of serious illness in which art therapy played a large role.

For both Saddington and Sooriaaratchi, an arts background is an increasingly sought-after qualification in the face of technological and social change. This is due to the skills it develops — confidence, creativity, ingenuity, adaptability — as well as other life and people skills that are well suited to a constantly changing work environment.

Both also believe that the arts play a pivotal role in preventing and remedying social issues stemming from social dislocation from the local community.

ACOPA itself plays an important role in the local community. In addition to its regular shows and courses, it engages in various community outreach initiatives.

ACOPA has conducted theatre-based English language courses and interview skills workshops for jobseekers, as well as courses for schools, community centres and psychiatric institutions. It also sponsors artists' residencies, and internships for students seeking professional skills and experience in a wide range of roles.

Both Saddington and Sooriaaratchi appreciate the rich arts community that exists in North and West Melbourne and hope that, with the increasing population, the arts will only become more prominent in fostering personal development and a sense of community for local residents.

When asked about the evolution of ACOPA over its 15-year life, and the challenges of being an arts organisation, Saddington is positive but frank and pragmatic. "It's been tough," he says, "because for most people, the arts are



Lindsay Saddington and Sunari Sooriaaratchi

Photo: courtesy ACOPA

still seen as a luxury. For me, it's a necessity."

Accordingly, ACOPA is changing with the times. Over the course of 2017 Club Voltaire was the main focus, presenting art exhibitions in the first-floor gallery space, as well as regular theatre and comedy performances, including Melbourne Fringe Festival and Melbourne Comedy Festival shows, in the venue's second-floor theatre space.

In 2018, however, the pair are putting their energy into a renewed emphasis on ACOPA course modules. ACOPA is due to become a Registered Training Organisation in early 2019 and will offer an accredited three-year per-

formance art course. It will also increase the range of visual art courses on offer.

As well as their courses and shows, ACOPA's spaces are available for hire for exhibition, performance, rehearsal and production purposes. The centre also publishes a monthly magazine, *Volt*, and is seeking to support an affiliated talent agency, the Australian Creative Talent Agency.

More information on ACOPA and Club Voltaire can be found on the soon-to-be-re-launched website, www.acopa.net.au/acopa/. Readers can also contact the centre at admin@acopa.com.au.

Beyond Bluestone: Melbourne photographs on display at Victorian Archives Centre

Kate Follington

Some of Melbourne's most iconic public works are now on show at the Victorian Archives Centre (VAC) in the VAC Gallery's latest photographic exhibition.

Beyond Bluestone: Bending Melbourne's Architectural Boundaries centres around architectural projects in the city which have pushed, or are currently pushing, Melbourne's boundaries.

The archival photographs come from the State and National governments' photographic collections, held on site at the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne, under the management of Public Record Office Victoria and National Archives Australia.

In one stunning image, a man in worker's boots crouches inside a giant metal tunnel, perfectly hinting at the futuristic planning of the Melbourne Underground Rail Loop project. Now known as the City Loop, this transformed wayfinding around the city as passengers learned to navigate 16 different train lines either clockwise or anti-clockwise around the loop each morning and night.

Fully completed in 1985, it's hard now to imagine travelling through the city without it.

Staff from the Victorian Archives Centre curated the exhibition. Because many of the photographs are yet to be digitised, they patiently sorted through boxes of records to find the right photograph for each story. One of the curators, Sebastian Gurciullo, said he enjoyed



West Gate Bridge

Photo: National Archives Australia



City Loop

Photo: National Archives Australia

this challenge.

"The scale of the photographic series was sometimes overwhelming, like the City Loop series of which there are thousands of photos. Others, though, like the social housing developments, were harder to find. The [developments] were built fast because Melbourne desperately needed housing, and we found photographs hard to come by."

Some of the building projects took decades to come to fruition. That came as a surprise to the curators when they read the original planning documents, which are preserved alongside the photographs within the archives.

"Many of these places we wander through or past with barely a second thought were hugely ambitious mid-century public works. Many built in the 1950s and 1960s had been in plan-

ning for decades prior to ensure Melbourne wouldn't grind to a halt and could cope with its booming population," Gurciullo added.

The photographs include the infamous West Gate Bridge under construction; the still hugely popular Myer Music Bowl, constructed in 1959; ICI House, the tallest building in Australia (at the time); and even the much-talked-about public housing towers of North Melbourne, which were controversial, but necessary, at the time of construction.

Beyond Bluestone also takes a peek at more recent developments that have pushed our boundaries by collaborating with street photographers. VAC Gallery has partnered with local street photographers who add Melbourne's contemporary landscape to the exhibition. They've submitted stunning shots of hot-button projects like Federation Square and the much-loved, and much-moved, Yellow Peril sculpture.

Beyond Bluestone will leave you convinced of the powerful influence — good and bad — that architecture can have on our everyday lives.

The exhibition is on until September, free of charge, at the Victorian Archives Centre Gallery.

Victorian Archives Centre

99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne 3051

Tel: 9348 5600

Opening hours: 10.00am – 4.30pm

Monday to Friday and second and last Saturday of every month (except public holidays)

Crafting history through a community mural



Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre mural

Photos: Jim Weatherill

Sari Wawn

In the meeting room at the Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre in Melrose Street there is a mural that records some significant aspects of Victoria's past.

The mural was made by the North and West Melbourne Elderly Citizens Club in 1985 as a contribution to Victoria's 150th anniversary celebrations. It embodies the strength and diversity of the community spirit that still beats at the heart of the inner north.

The design is deceptively simple and yet, on closer inspection, it integrates a vast array of media and topics. Drawing on the same tradition as community quilts, it showcases the range of skills and the resourcefulness that were part of the daily lives of its makers.

The mural consists of 54 squares, mostly made by individual club members, with side panels that are composites of four smaller pieces. Most of the pieces are tapestries, while others include appliqué, bead weaving, collage, knitting, crochet, paintings, medals and badges, and stamps; there is even a wooden boomerang. The mural measures 357 by 226 centimetres.

The late Jean McKendry, founder of the neighbourhood centre, used to stress that the mural was a team effort and that many of the citizens involved in its making did so in spite of poor health.

What follows is not a complete list of the pieces, although a catalogue does appear in the book *In Our Time* published by Melbourne City Council to accompany the mural, but it gives an idea of the variety of landmarks, activities and topics covered.

Among the images you will find Flinders Street Station, Queen Victoria Hospital, the Floral Clock, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Luna Park and, further afield, Phillip Island penguins, Healesville Sanctuary and a country town. Activities such as ballroom dancing and Red Cross work are depicted, and there are stamps featuring Olympic athletes. Flags of India, Italy, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, and a Scottish thistle, indicate some of the backgrounds of the group.

The large centrepiece, an image of the Eureka Stockade, was made by Jean McKendry herself, who, according to her friend Wyn Mackay, was a meticulous dressmaker. It exemplifies the quality of the workmanship typical of the mural.

As in any work of art, the whole is greater

than the sum of its parts, and the work deserves to be better known. Since it is not suitable for display in the open, it hangs behind perspex, thus presenting a challenge to photograph.

We are grateful to *News* photographer Jim Weatherill for expertly taking up the challenge. This is an important step in bringing the mural to the public's attention. However, the best way to appreciate it is to come down to the club and see it for yourself. We're always there on Mondays.

For the book *In Our Time*, the oral part of the project involved 14 members of the group, all born between 1903 and 1920, sharing stories of their varied and adventurous lives with local historian John Irving. In many cases their parents had brought them here from overseas. Some grew up in country Australia and came to Melbourne to look for work, some faced financial hardship during the Depression, and the lives of others were affected by war.

Giza (Charlie) Nadasdy, who painted the brewery horses, was a pilot and self-confessed storyteller born in Hungary who came to Australia after escaping through war-torn Europe. Rosie Sanders, designer of the Puffing Billy spoon panel, was a

single parent who came from England, while Lawrence Muir, creator of the North Melbourne Football Club collage — a subject particularly dear to Wyn Mackay's heart — worked in education around country Victoria and then in Melbourne, where he became involved in umpiring athletics.

Doris Cassidy, artist of the Salvation Army badge, spent time as a child on the Kalgoorlie goldfields, where she saw camel trains. For Honor Hubbard, creator of the Melbourne Cup collage, who came from an Irish family, young life, as for many others, centred around family and church.

The stories only truly come to life when heard or read in the voices of the storytellers, and we have been lucky enough to have Wyn share her memories of the club with us when we view the mural. Wyn has had a long association with the club, as a friend of Jean's, through her mother and in her own right.

Today's artists, the Melrose Arts and Crafts Group, meet at the club every Monday. We maintain an interest in many forms of art and craft, although our main interest is painting. Working together we learn from each other. We have arrived here from many different places and speak many different languages. Art is the one we share.



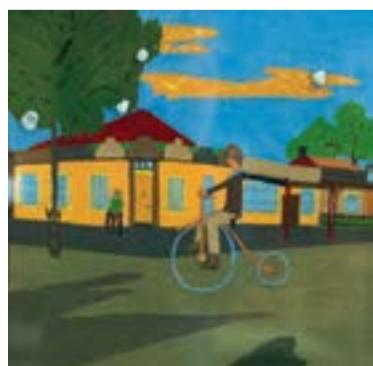
Ballroom Dancing
Tapestry by Doris Marshall



Melbourne Cup
Collage by Honor Hubbard



Cable Car
Tapestry by Jean Wighton



The Penny Farthing Bike
Painted by Frank Gordon